On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, January 24, 2014

MIAMI HEAT

CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)

— A sober-looking Justin Bieber was released from jail Thursday following his arrest on charges of driving under the influence, driving with an expired license and resisting arrest.

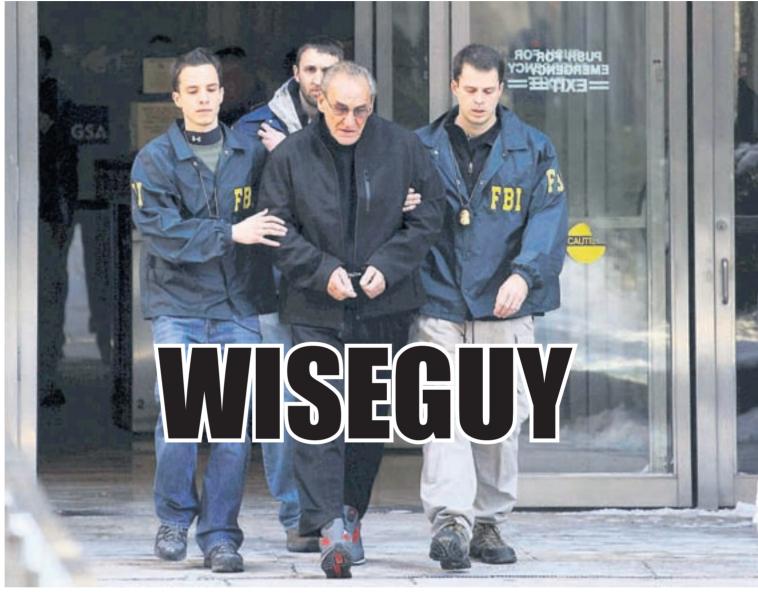


This police booking mug shows pop star Justin Bieber, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. (AP Photo/Miami County Jail)

Police say they stopped the 19-year-old pop star while he was drag-racing down a Miami Beach street before dawn.

Bieber was arrested after police said they saw him heading down a residential street in Miami Beach in a yellow Lamborghini at twice the speed limit. Officers say he had an expired license, was initially not cooperative when he was pulled over and smelled of alcohol. Police say Bieber later admitted that he had been drinking, smoking marijuana and taking prescription medication. R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff was arrested in the same incident.

Continued on Page 5



FBI agents flank Vincent Asaro as they escort the reputed mobster from FBI offices in lower Manhattan, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, in New York. More than 30 years after the crime, Asaro was indicted in the \$6 million Lufthansa heist at Kennedy Airport that was dramatized in the Martin Scorsese movie "Goodfellas."

(AP Photo/Newsday, Charles Eckert)

Reputed mobster pleads not guilty in 1978 heist

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 30 years after hooded gunmen pulled a \$6 million airport heist dramatized in the hit Martin Scorsese movie "Goodfellas," an elderly reputed mobster was arson and other crimes arrested at his New York from the late 1960s through porters outside court that City home on Thursday and

and a 1969 murder.

Vincent Asaro, 78, was named along with his son, Jerome, and three other defendants in wide-ranging indictment alleging murder, robbery, extortion, last year. The Asaros, both his client was framed by charged in the robbery identified as captains in the shady turncoat gangsters,

Bonanno organized crime family, pleaded not guilty through their attorneys and were ordered held without bail at a brief appearance in federal court in Brooklyn. The elder Asaro's attorney, Gerald McMahon, told reincluding former Bonanno boss Joseph Massino — the highest-ranking member of the city's five organized crime families to break the mob's vow of silence.

Massino "is one of the worst witnesses I've ever seen," McMahon said.

Continued on Page 4



The Aruba Today Newspaper announces that in honor of Betico Day, we will not be in circulation Saturday, January 25th. We will be back on newsstands everywhere bright and early to serve our readers and advertisers first thing in the morning, Monday, January 27th. There will be events and activities all across the island this weekend in celebration of Betico Day, which honors the life and legacy of Aruban politician Gilberto François "Betico" Croes.



Iran leader sets lofty goals at Davos

JOHN HEILPRIN **PAN PYLAS Associated Press**

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — In a charm offensive to the global political and business elite, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani set lofty ambitions for his country, including becoming one of the world's top 10 economies.

The first Iranian leader in a decade to visit the World Economic Forum, Rouhani took top billing Thursday at the World Economic

omy," said Rouhani. "Iran's next six months. economy has so far the potential to be among the world's top 10 in the next three decades."

For 2012, the International Monetary Fund judged Iran to be the 21st biggest economy in the world in terms of annual economic income, or nominal gross domestic product. To get into the top 10 it would have to leapfrog the likes of Switzerland, Turkey and Spain.

Rouhani's attendance was disposal, particularly oil

"We intend to reopen trade, industrial and economic relations, with all of our neighbors," Rouhani said. Iran, he claimed, is "fully prepared and ready to engage with all neighboring countries" to reach solutions on issues including business ventures, environmental concerns, Palestinian rights, Persian Gulf security and Syria's humanitarian crisis.

Iran has huge riches at its



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani gestures as speaks during a session of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. Leaders gathered in the Swiss ski resort of Davos have made it a top priority to push to reshape the global economy and cut global warming by shifting to cleaner energy sources.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Forum, drawing crowds to hear a speech in which he promised greater engagement with the world.

Touting the potential investment opportunities of the talks being held just a few been cut off from internaoil-rich land to the business tycoons in the audience, The forum, which brings to-Rouhani said his country could, with the gradual easing of sanctions, enjoy an economic boom.

And Tehran, he said, is committed to honoring a deal to curb its nuclear program in the hope that lifting of economic sanctions, which have battered the Iranian economy over recent years.

"I see the status of Iran pursuing policies of moderation, prudence and hope in the future global econ-

eagerly awaited as it coincided with the lifting of some of the sanctions, as well as the country's exclusion from Syrian peace But the country has largely hours' drive away.

gether about 2,500 political and business leaders, was the perfect stage for Rouhani to deliver a diplomatic message while seeking to engage with potential investors.

And in an attempt to soften will lead to a permanent concerns that sanctions will remain a feature of life for Iran, Rouhani emphasized that Tehran will abide by world powers to limit its nuclear program. The two sides will try to make the deal permanent over the

and gas, the work force is skilled and the country has untapped potential for tourism.

tional business since the Iranian Revolution in 1979. The sanctions, which have grown in recent years in response to Iran's nuclear program, have hit the economy hard.

"Rapprochement with the West will help stabilize Iran's economy," said Bryan Plamondon, senior economist at IHS.

Rouhani said he hopes Iran's historical deep ecothe terms of a deal with nomic ties with Europe will be normalized and suggested that negotiations with the U.S. could pave the way to better relations.

CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

Arrests made in missing hotelier case

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Several arrests have been made in the search for a prominent hotel owner in Haiti who remains missing, a police spokesman said Thursday. Evinx Daniel, 58, was last seen on Jan. 5. Police on Saturday found his vehicle at a gas station outside the western port city of Gonaives. Haitian National Police spokesman Gary Desrosiers said detectives have arrested several people, but he declined to give details because the case remains under investigation.

US judge's son found guilty of murder

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The son of a U.S. district court judge has been found guilty of killing his wife at their home in a wealthy suburb in Puerto Rico. Pablo Casellas Toro also was found guilty this week of weapons offenses and destroying evidence. His 46-yearold wife, Carmen Paredes, was killed in July 2012, her body riddled with about a dozen shots, including one to the forehead, forensic officials testified. Casellas had said he was innocent and that he came home to find his wife dead and an unknown man escaping over a fence.

Jamaica police get wearable cameras

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Some police units in Jamaica will soon be wearing video cameras on their uniforms to curb high rates of killings by officers, improve transparency and head off unfair allegations of wrongdoing. Security Minister Peter Bunting says select units of the Jamaica Constabulary Force will start wearing the cameras this year. Bunting's Thursday announcement comes as an independent commission is launching a probe into alleged homicides by police in Clarendon parish. Last year, 258 civilians on the island were killed by security forces.

Search for missing US diver now over

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Rescuers in the Cayman Islands have ended their search for a U.S. man who vanished during a diving excursion. The missing 57-year-old man's tank, buoyancy control device and an article of his clothing have been found in depths greater than 110 feet (33 meters) at the Barracuda Wall dive site. But despite three days of searching, they have found no sign of David Byles of Pinehurst, North Carolina. Police Inspector Ian Yearwood said Wednesday that rescuers have done as much as they can do to recover his body and "bring some closure to his family."

Puerto Rico debuts sugarcane project

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's governor says farmers in the U.S. territory are once again cultivating sugarcane to help local distilleries produce rum as part of a \$170 million project. Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said this week that he expects up to 20,000 acres to be cultivated by 2016, generating some 1,300 jobs. He said sugarcane will be grown in at least 10 municipalities in the island's western region, the majority of it on private property. Garcia said he expects farmers to eventually produce some 800,000 tons of sugarcane, which will be turned into 20.5 million gallons of molasses.

Secretary Hagel ordering full review of nuclear force

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — With public trust and safety at stake, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered immediate actions Thursday to define the depth of trouble inside the U.S. nuclear force, which has been rocked by disclosures about security lapses, poor discipline, weak morale and other problems that raise questions about nuclear security.

It amounted to the most significant expression of high-level Pentagon concern about the nuclear force since 2008, when then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates fired the top uniformed and civilian officials in the Air Force following a series of mistakes that included an unauthorized flight of nuclear-armed cruise missiles across the country. Hagel had recently said he was considering what may lay behind problems in the nuclear Air Force — many revealed by The Associated Press—but his chief spokesman said Thursday that the defense secretary concluded ur-

gent remedies were needed. "To the degree there are systemic problems in the training and professional standards of the nuclear career field, the secretary wants them solved," the spokesman, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said. "To the degree there are gaps in our understanding or implementation of those standards, he wants them closed. And to the degree leaders have failed in their duties, he wants them held to account." Hagel summoned top military officials to a Pentagon conference, to be held within two weeks, to "raise and address" any personnel problems infesting the nuclear force, and he ordered an "action plan" be written within 60 days to explore nuclear force personnel issues, identify remedies, and put those fixes into place quickly. Hagel said he and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, will host the nuclear summit.

The Pentagon chief also said he would assemble a small group of outsiders with expertise in the nuclear field to conduct a broader review of the U.S. nuclear force, with a focus on personnel issues, and to recommend changes "that would help ensure the continued safety, secure," Hagel wrote in a memo to a dozen top officials, including heads of the Air Force and Navy. Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat and chairman of the Senate subcommittee that



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon., Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered immediate actions Thursday to define the depth of trouble inside the U.S. nuclear force, which has been rocked by disclosures about security lapses, poor discipline, weak morale and other problems that raise questions about nuclear security.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

curity and effectiveness of our nuclear forces."

"Personnel failures within this force threaten to jeopardize the trust the American people have placed in us to keep our nuclear weapons safe and seoversees the nation's strategic nuclear forces, welcomed Hagel's move.

"I remain concerned by the lapses in judgment and discipline displayed by some nuclear missile launch officers in recent

months, and I applaud Defense Secretary Hagel's swift and appropriate actions to identify the root causes of those issues," Udall said. "Our nation demands a great deal of the men and women in our nuclear enterprise for good reason." Since May, the AP has reported that nuclear missile force officers, from the commanding officer on down, had engaged in numerous misbehaviors or lapses. Some of those included failing security tests, violating security rules like leaving the blast door open while one of two officers napped, morale so low an officer complained of "rot" in his force and a report citing worryingly high levels of burnout.

Personnel issues are important because ICBMs are kept on alert every hour of every day, and the potential for human error is everpresent. Some argue that the men and women who hold the keys to the nuclear missiles have lost some of their focus on the mission, while others say their commanders are more to blame.

US government panel urges end to phone data spying

STEPHEN BRAUN
Associated Press

washington (AP) — A government review panel warned Thursday that the National Security Agency's daily collection of Americans' phone records is illegal and recommended that President Barack Obama abandon the program and destroy the hundreds of millions of phone records it has already collected.

The recommendations by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board go further than Obama is willing to accept and increase pressure on Congress to make changes.

The panel's 234-page report included dissents from two of the board's five members — former Bush administration national security lawyers who recommended that the government keep collecting the

phone records. The board described key parts of its report to Obama earlier this month before he announced his plans last week to change the government's surveillance activities.

In that speech, Obama said the bulk phone collection program would continue for the time being. He directed the Justice Department and intelligence officials to find ways to end the government's control over the phone data. He also insisting on close supervision by a secretive federal intelligence court and reducing the breadth of phone records the NSA can investigate. Phone companies have said they do not want to take responsibility for overseeing the data under standards set by the NSA.

Continued on Page 27





Reputed mobster pleads not guilty in 1978 heist



FBI agents search the backyard of a house once occupied by James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke in New York. Burke masterminded a \$5.8 million robbery from Lufthansa Airlines in 1978. Vincent Asaro, a mob associate of Burke's, was indicted, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014 for participating in the armed robbery at Kennedy Airport.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

Continued from front

He added that Asaro had given him "marching orders" that "there will be no plea and he will walk out the door a free man." A lawyer for Jerome Asaro declined comment.

The indictment accused Asaro of helping to direct the Dec. 11, 1978, Lufthansa Airlines heist at Kennedy airport — one of the largest cash thefts in American history. The gunmen looted a vault in the airline's cargo terminal and stole about \$5 million in untraceable U.S. currency that was being returned to the United States

about \$1 million in jewelry. The cash was never found. According to court papers, an unidentified mob associate who pleaded guilty and became a cooperating witness told investigators that he participated in the robbery at the direction of Asaro. The theft was hatched by James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke, a late Lucchese crime family associate who was close to Asaro, who told the bandits that he had a "score" that would make them rich, the papers say. Each robber was supposed to be paid \$750,000, but the cooperating witness said "most did not receive their share, either because they were killed first or it was never given to them," according to the court papers.

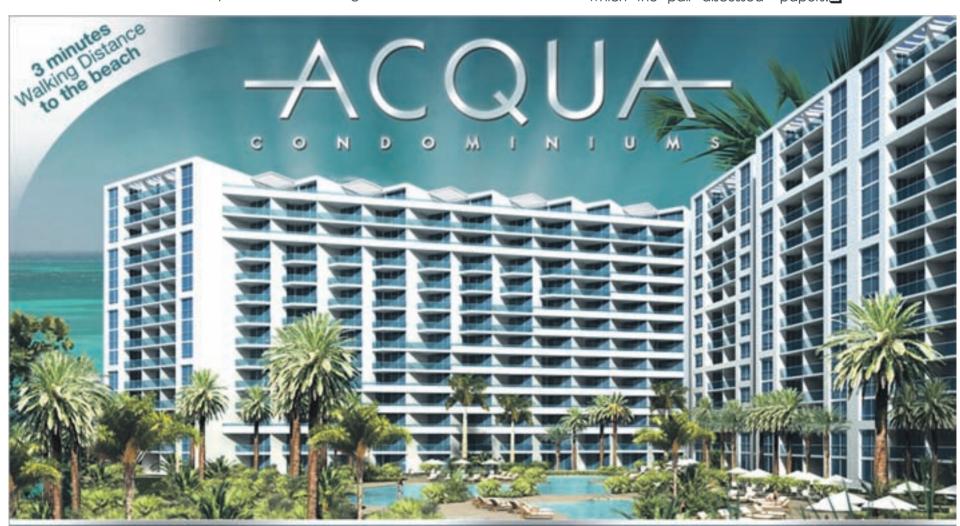
from Germany, along with

The papers say the cooperator wore a wire and recorded a conversation he had with Asaro in 2011 in which the pair discussed

being slighted.

"We never got our right money, what we were supposed to get," Asaro said, according to the court papers. "Jimmy Burke kept everything."

In addition to the heist, the elder Asaro was charaed in the 1969 murder of Paul Katz, whose remains were found last year during an FBI dig at a house once occupied by Burke. According to the cooperating witness, Asaro and Burke were business partners in Robert's Lounge, the papers say. The saloon was described by a fellow Lucchese associate of Burke, the late Henry Hill, as Burke's private cemetery. "Jimmy buried over a dozen bodies ... under the bocce courts," Hill wrote in his book, "A Goodfella's Guide to New York." Katz once owned a warehouse where mobsters stored stolen goods, according to the court papers.



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Pop star Justin Bieber exits jail after DUI arrest

Continued from front

He is charged with driving under the influence. Police said Khalil was driving a Ferrari.

Bieber and Khalil, wearing bright red jail fatigues, made their initial court appearance via a video link from jail. They remained silent while defense attorney Roy Black negotiated bond. Bieber's bond was set at \$2,500. Khalil's bond was set at \$1,000.

Black, a high-profile lawyer whose clients have included Rush Limbaugh and William Kennedy Smith, said he thought the case would proceed "hopefully as any other case would" in light of Bieber's celebrity status. Authorities say Bieber was arrested after police saw him and Khalil racing two luxury vehicles down the street at 4:09 a.m., with two other vehicles apparently being used to block off the area. Police say Bieber was clocked at 55 mph (88 kph) to 60 mph (96 kph) in a 30 mph (48 kph) zone.

Earlier Thursday, police chief Ray Martinez said at a news conference that the singer was initially not cooperative when the officer pulled him over. Martinez said the singer also had an invalid Georgia driver's license and admitted to smoking marijuana, taking prescription medication and drinking.

According to the arrest report, Bieber "had slow



Singer Justin Bieber leaves the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, in Miami. Bieber was released from jail Thursday following his arrest on charges of driving under the influence, driving with an expired license and resisting arrest. Police say they stopped the 19-year-old pop star while he was drag-racing down a Miami Beach street before dawn.

(AP Photo/Hector Gabino)

in Miami Beach, it's been known to happen," he said. "It's 4 o'clock in the morning, everybody is just aetting out of the bars."

Under Florida law, people under the age of 21 are considered driving under the influence if they have a blood-alcohol content of .02 percent or more a level Bieber could reach with one drink.

For a first driving under the influence offense, there is no minimum sentence and a maximum of six months. a fine of \$250 to \$500, and 50 hours of community service. For anyone under 21, there is an automatic sixmonth license suspension.

A first conviction for drag racing carries a sentence of up to six months, a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 and a oneyear license suspension.

deliberate movements" and a look of stupor on his face when the officer ordered him to exit his vehicle. Bieber was placed under arrest after repeatedly refusing to put his hands on his vehicle so the officer could pat him down to look for weapons, the report said.

It says he cursed several times at the officer and demanded to know why he was being arrested.

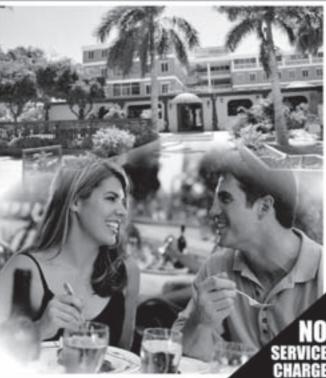
Bieber failed a field sobriety test and was taken to the Miami Beach police station for a Breathalyzer, police said. Results haven't been released. His publicist, Melissa Victor, did not offer an immediate comment.

The street where police say Bieber was racing in mid-Miami Beach is a four-lane residential street divided by a grass median dotted with palm trees.

Along one side of the street are small apartment buildings, and on the other side are a high school, a youth center, a golf course and a city firehouse. It's a short drive from the area to trendy South Beach, where celebrities are known to let loose. George Avilas, who lives nearby said he didn't hear anything, but was not surprised to hear that people might be drag-racing. "There's so much partying











American home sales edged up 1% in December

MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of existing U.S. homes edged up slightly in December, helping to lift sales for the year to the highest level in seven years.

Sales increased to an annual rate of 4.87 million units last month, up 1 percent from the November sales pace, the National Association of Realtors reported Thursday. Both months represented a slower pace of sales than earlier in 2013, reflecting the drag from higher mortgage rates and higher home prices.

For all of 2013, sales totaled 5.09 million, the best performance since 2006, when sales climbed to 6.48 million. However, the sales gains in both 2005 and 2006 represented an unsustainable housing bubble. Analysts say a more normal sales pace currently would be around 5.5 million units. The median price of an existing home rose 11.5 percent last year to \$197,100, the highest in eight years. Sales of previously owned homes are up 19.5 percent since 2011 but sales fell

from September through our population," said Law-November and the December level is still 9.6 percent below the summer peak.

rence Yun, chief economist for the Realtors.

Yun expects sales will remain around the 2013 more optimistic. Patrick Newport, an economist at Global Insight, predicted that sales growth would slow a bit from last year's



A for sale sign hangs in front of a house in Mount Lebanon, Pa. The National Association of Realtors released positive existing home sales data for December, on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

"We lost some momentum toward the end of 2013 from disappointing job growth and limited inventory, but we ended with a year that was close to normal given the size of

level of 5.09 million in 2014 as such factors as tighter mortgage lending standards and limited inventories impede further progress in the housing market. But other forecasters are

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar) 8.8 percent rise. He predicted a 5.1 percent increase this year to 5.33 million. He said that would represent a "return to normalcy for this portion of the

Total housing inventory at the end of December was down 9.3 percent to 1.86 million existing homes available for sale. That represents a 4.6 month supply at the December sales pace. Over the summer, re-sales reached a pace of 5.39 million, the fastest in four years. But sales began to slow in September as the costs of buying a home rose. Mortgage rates rose to nearly a full percentage point higher than thev were in the spring, when they were at record lows. And a limited supply of homes on the market helped drive up prices. The combination of rising mortgage rates and rising prices made home buying less affordable, particularly for first-time buyers.

Study: Climbing US income ladder hasn't changed

PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP)

Young Americans from low-income families are as likely to move into the ranks of the affluent today as those born in the 1970s, according to a report by several top academic experts on inequality.

The study, published this week by the National Bureau of Economic Research, runs counter to the widespread belief that a widening gap between rich and poor has made it harder to climb the economic ladder.

Democratic and Republi-

can lawmakers alike have expressed alarm over what had been seen as diminishing opportunities for economic advancement through hard work and ingenuity. Instead, the study found that 9 percent of children born in 1986 to the poorest 20 percent of households were likely to climb into the top 20 percent — little-changed from 8.4 percent for such children born in 1971. "Absolutely, we were surprised" by the results, says Harvard University economist Nathaniel Hendren. He is one of the report's authors along with Harvard's Raj Chetty, Emmanuel Saez and Patrick Kline of the University of California, Berkeley, and Nicholas Turner of the Treasury Department. Worries have been growing across the political spectrum about an expanding divide between America's rich and the rest: The top 1 percent of Americans accounted for 22.5 percent of income earned in the United States in 2012. That is one of the highest figures since the Roaring '20s and up from a low 8.9 percent in 1976, according to a database maintained by Saez. But the fact the top 1 percent are pulling away has had little effect on the ability of those in the bottom fifth to rise to the top fifth, the study found.

The findings are open to different interpretations: They could suggest that government programs to help the poor have made little headway in increasing economic opportunity.



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housing market." Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, agreed. "The decade of boom, bust and boom in the housing market is nearing an end," he said. "We should be getting back to a more normal market."



US Financial Front:

Weekly applications for American jobless aid mostly flat



Job seekers sign in before meeting prospective employers during a career fair at a hotel in Dallas. The Labor Department released flat weekly jobless claims, on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

ents fell to 3.7 million from

4.7 million in the previ-

ous week. About 300,000

people began receiving

C. S. RUGABER **AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits ticked up 1,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 326,000, a level consistent with steady job gains.

The Labor Department says the four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell for the third straight week to 331,500. Both figures are close to pre-recession levels and suggest that companies are laying off few workers.

Still, hiring will also need to pick up to make a dent in the still-high 6.7 percent unemployment rate. Many job gains will pick up a bit this year.

"An array of surveys tell us labor demand is rising, and we remain of the view that the underlying trend in payroll growth is slowly picking up," said Ian Shepherdson, an economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

One sour note in the report: Nearly 1.4 million people who have been unemployed longer than six months lost benefits in the week that ended Jan. 4, the latest period for which figures are available. That's because an emergency program that provided extended benefits expired Dec. 28.

economists forecast that The number of recipi-

5.6 million people were receiving aid a year ago. The program peaked with just over 11 million recipients in early 2010, about six months after the Great Recession ended. The figures show that only

ther found jobs or exhaust-

ed their benefits. More than

about one-third of those out of work now receive aid. That's low by historical standards. The figure is usually closer to half.

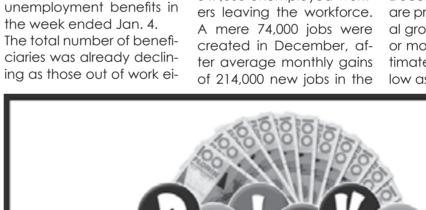
More than 10 million people were unemployed in December. Benefits are available only to those who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Those who quit or were fired for performance reasons or who have started looking for work after finishing school don't qualify for benefits.

The unemployment rate fell last month to 6.7 percent from 7 percent. Much that decrease came from 347,000 unemployed workprevious four months.

There are signs that economic growth is accelerating. Consumer confidence and retail spending have picked up in the October-December quarter. Orders to U.S. manufacturers rose in November, a sign that businesses are investina more on factory-made items such as machinery, computers and electrical goods. Factory output rose for a fifth straight month in December.

The economy is still far from healthy. Income rose at a slower pace than spending last month, which means Americans are spending more but saving less. And sales of existing homes have dropped for three straight months, held back by higher prices and mortgage rates.

Still, many economists have become more optimistic about the October-December quarter. Several are predicting a solid annual growth rate of 3 percent or more. That's up from estimates a month ago of as low as 1.5 percent.



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Syrian peace talks yield hard stances, slight hope

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Syria's government said stopping terrorism — not talking peace — was its priority, while the Western-backed opposition said "the road to negotiations" had begun, offering a glimmer of hope Thursday for a way to halt the violence that has killed more than 130,000 people.

The two sides did not meet face-to-face, buffered by a famously patient U.N. mediator who shuttled between representatives of Syrian President Bashar Assad and members of the opposition trying to overthrow him. And they did not seem ready to do so Friday as originally scheduled. Syrian Foreign Minis-

ter Walid al-Moallem questioned both the point of the talks and the legitimacy of the Syrian National Coingly radicalized rebellion. Infighting among rebels in the civil war has grown so deadly — nearly 1,400



Ahmad al-Jarba, leader of the Syrian National Coalition (SNC), Syria's main political opposition group, points his finger during a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. Al-Jarba announced that the Syrian peace talk negotiations will be difficult and that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is now part of the past. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

alition, which is made up largely of exiles and lacks influence with an increaskilled in the past 20 days that the head of al-Qaida called on Islamic militants

to stand down, playing directly into Assad's argument that only his government is preventing Syria's further descent into chaos. Al-Moallem, speaking before his meeting with mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, said his government's priority was to "to fight terrorism." Both U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and the head of the Syrian National Coalition derided the notion that Assad should stay in power to fight terrorists.

"Assad is responsible for the potential disintegration of Syria," Kerry told the broadcaster Al-Arabiya. "He is a one-man supermagnet for terrorism."

Both sides affirmed positions hardened after nearly three years of fighting. They blamed each other for turning a once-thriving country into ruins, and they called each other terrorists. But their willingness to meet separately with Brahimi gave the first sense that the negotiations might bear fruit. Brahimi himself said Wednesday they had shown willingness to bend on humanitarian corridors, prisoner exchanges and local cease-fires — even if the terms were still murky. "The road to negotiations has begun." opposition

"The road to negotiations has begun," opposition chief Ahmad al-Jarba told reporters, even as he described Assad as "part of the past." He said he had empowered negotiators to determine the time and scope for any talks.

The fighting that began in March 2011 with a peaceful uprising against Assad has become a proxy war between regional powers Iran and Saudi Arabia, with hints of a throwback to the Cold War as Russia and the United States back opposite sides. Iran was conspicuously absent from the peace conference's opening day, after U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon rescinded his last-minute invitation to the country that has supplied Assad with cash, weapons and Shiite fighters linked to Hezbollah. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was at another Swiss venue, the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he called for a new election in Syria and said his nation would respect the results.

Nos isla, nos turismo, nos futuro y nos compromiso.

Feliz Dia di Betico





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India:

Woman is gang-raped on orders of village council in West Bengal

GARDINER HARRIS HARI KUMAR © 2014 New York Times

NEW DELHI - A young woman in West Bengal was gang-raped this week on the order of a village council, to punish her for planning to marry a man from outside the village, according to Indian police. Thirteen people have been arrested in the case, including the village chief who both ordered and participated in the rape, according to Suraja Pratap Yadav, a police officer in the Birbhum district of West Bengal in eastern India.

The episode began Monday when Khaliq Sheikh, the man from a different village, asked the young woman to marry him, and she accepted his proposal, police said. When Balai Mardi, the chief of the village, heard about it, he

quickly sought to block the marriage.

According to local news media accounts, villagers went to the young woman's house and detained Sheikh. Mardi ordered the couple to pay fines totaling 27,000 rupees (about \$442), Yadav said in a telephone interview. Sheikh paid his portion and was allowed to leave, but when the young woman's family refused to pay, Mardi ordered villagers "to enjoy her," said a police officer who spoke on condition that he not be named. She was then raped repeatedly in Mardi's mud-andthatch hut, according to local media reports.

Mardi told the young woman and her family that if they reported the rapes to police, the village elders would burn their house down, Yaday said. □



Opposition optimistic after meeting with Yanukovych

LAURA MILLS YURAS KARMANAU **Associated Press**

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The chances of ending the violence that has convulsed the Ukrainian capital are high, a spokeswoman for a top opposition leader said late Thursday after a meeting with the president.

Olha Lappo, a spokeswoman for Arseniy Yatsenyuk, made the statement on his Facebook page Thursday after an hours-long meeting with President Viktor Yanukovych. That came after opposition leaders gave a Thursday evening deadline to make concessions or face renewed clashes.

She did not provide details, but the assessment appeared to be the first sign of progress in resolving the two-month crisis that is threatening to spread well beyond Kiev.

However, some protesters were resistant on Thursday night. Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, one of those who met with Yanukovych, went to the site of clashes to try to persuade demonstrators to hold to an uneasy truce, but was booed and some cried "Shame!"

The demonstrators again aflame barricades of tires that had been quenched when opposition leaders offered the deadline.

The clash site is a few hundred meters (yards) away from the protester tent pointee, shouting "Revolucamp on Independence Square, where around-theclock demonstrations have been held since early December.

At least two people were killed by gunfire at the clash site on Wednesday. Demonstrators had pelted riot police with barrages of stones and set police buses

on fire, while the officers responded with rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

Enraged protesters stormed government offices in three western Ukraine cities Thursday, forcing one governor to write a letter of resignation, as demonstrations intensified outside Kiev.

The president called a special session of parliament next week to discuss the tensions, telling the parliament speaker:

"The situation demands an urgent settlement." But there was no indication that the move represented a compromise, since the president's backers hold a majority of seats.

The protests began after Yanukovych turned away from closer ties with the European Union in favor of getting a bailout loan from Russia.

They turned violent this week after he pushed through harsh anti-protest laws, rejecting protesters' demands that he resign and call new elections.

Support for Yanukovych is virtually non-existent in western Ukraine and most residents want closer ties to the 28-nation EU.

In Lviv, a city in near the Polish border 450 kilometers (280 miles) west of Kiev, hundreds of activists burst Thursday into the office of regional governor Oleh Salo, a Yanukovych aption!" and singing Christmas carols.

After surrounding him and forcing him to sign a resignation letter, an activist ripped it out of Salo's hands and lifted it up to the cheers and applause of the crowd. Salo later retracted his signature, saying he had been coerced.



Protesters use a large slingshot to hurl a Molotov cocktail at police in central Kiev, Ukraine, Thursday Jan. 23, 2014. Thick black smoke from burning tires engulfed parts of downtown Kiev as an ultimatum issued by the opposition to the president to call for an early election or face street rage was set to expire on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Sergei Grits)



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Central African Republic leader sworn in amid looting



Central African Republic's interim President Catherine Samba-Panza, center, receives traditional gifts in the parliament building after taking the oath of office in Bangui, Central African Republic, Thursday Jan. 23, 2014. Samba-Panza pledged to bring peace and unity to the anarchic country as looters in the streets pillaged Muslim neighborhoods in the latest sign of escalating sectarian tensions.

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

HIPPOLYTE MARBOUA KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press
BANGUI, Central African
Republic (AP) — Interim
President Catherine Samba-Panza urged fighters
to put down their arms as
she took the oath of office
Thursday, even as looters

hoods and sectarian tensions escalated in the anarchic Central African Republic.

Samba-Panza, the nation's first female leader, was sworn in at a ceremony days after being chosen by a national transitional council. The rebel leader behind the March 2013

coup stepped aside nearly two weeks ago under mounting international criticism of his inability to control his fighters and stem the violence.

In her inaugural address, Samba-Panza urged both the Muslim fighters behind the coup and the Christian militiamen who rose up in opposition to support peace. "I strongly call on the fighters to show patriotism in putting down their weapons," she said. "The ongoing disorder in the country will no longer be tolerated." Central African Republic has been wracked by sectarian violence for months, with more than 1,000 people killed in Bangui over the course of several days in December alone. Nearly 1 million people have fled their homes, with 100,000 of them living in and around the Bangui airport being guarded by French soldiers.

U.N. officials have warned that the crisis is at high risk of escalating into a genocide, driven by fighting between Christian and Muslim communities in the country with a history of coups and dictatorship.

Christian Bernis Latakpi, 24, a university student, said he hoped that Samba-Panza, who has been mayor of Bangui since June, would bring much-needed reconciliation after months of bloodshed.

"Since independence, men have always run the country and they have failed at the job," he said. "We're looking to her to quickly bring security and to reunite our Muslim and Christian brothers. cause the Muslim Central Africans — they were born here, grew up here and we can't disown them. Now it's up to the mother to reconcile these different communities."

Yet even in the hours leading up to her inauguration, tensions flared across Bangui. Hundreds of Christians went on a rampage Wednesday, looting and setting fire to Muslimowned homes and businesses and threatening to go on a killing spree.

Spain:

Swiss mother allegedly kills son in hospital





In this photo released by the Spanish Police on Thursday Jan. 23, 2014, 40-year-old Swiss citizen Katharina Katit-Staheli is pictured at an unknown date and location.

(AP Photo/Spanish Police)

JORGE SAINZ
Associated Press
MADRID (AP) — A Swiss
woman detained by Span-

ish authorities and taken to a hospital with her 10-month-old son allegedly cut the boy's throat with a hidden knife and killed him after receiving permission to give him a bath, Spain's Civil Guard said Thursday. Katharina Katit-Staheli, 40, was taken into custody Wednesday with her son in Torrevieja on the Mediterranean coast by police acting on an arrest warrant issued by Zurich authorities. The mother allegedly took her child suffering from a brain abnormality without authorization from a specialist Swiss clinic.

Police said in a statement that the mother and child were taken to the Spanish hospital because the boy needed medical attention. She asked permission from police to give him a bath, took a knife she had concealed in diapers and allegedly killed him, a Civil Guard spokesman said on condition of anonymity in keeping with the agency's policy. The woman then tried to kill herself but police prevented her from doing so, the statement said. Katit-Staheli was in serious condition at the hospital.



Cease-fire agreement signed in South Sudan conflict

NICHOLAS KULISH © 2014 New York Times NAIROBI, Kenya - The government of South Sudan and rebels loyal to the country's ousted for-

that negotiations would have to continue.

While humanitarian groups welcomed the cease-fire as an opportunity to restore peace and stability, politi-



Nhail Deng Nhail, 2nd left, the head of South Sudan's negotiating team, and top negotiator for the rebel's side, Taban Deng Gai, right, a general in South Sudan's army before he defected, sign a cessation of hostilities agreement in front of mediator Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom, center, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

(AP Photo/Elias Asmare)

mer vice president signed a cease-fire agreement Thursday, holding out the prospect of peace after more than a month of fighting that has torn the new nation apart.

Under the agreement, signed in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, both sides in the conflict promised to lay down their arms. But they have also said that a cessation of hostilities would be a temporary measure, short of a formal peace agreement, and cal analysts urged restraint, saying that a cease-fire was only the first step in bringing an end to a civil war that has killed thousands and displaced more than half a million South Sudanese.

"We have to be very cautious," said Zacharia Diing Akol, director of training at the Sudd Institute, an independent research group in the South Sudanese capital, Juba. "Today is just going to be the first step toward stopping violence, but the long and arduous

process of real negotiations are going to begin." Refugees, many of them unaccompanied children, have streamed across the border by the tens of thousands into Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, More than 70,000 people are sheltering at U.N. bases in South Sudan, afraid that they will be killed either by crossfire or in targeted attacks.

"The world's newest nation, plagued by conflict for the past month, has today been given a second chance," said José Barahona, Oxfam's country director for South Sudan, in a statement following the announcement of the deal. Neighboring countries and global powers, including the United States, China and the United Nations, placed significant pressure on the parties to reach an agreement, fearing that the fighting could escalate into a protracted civil war or even a wider regional conflict. Ugandan troops have been fighting alongside government forces, helping to push back the rebels.

The South Sudanese government of President Salva Kiir and the rebels had difficulty finding common ground, in particular on the question of the release of prisoners who support the former vice president, Riek Machar. But the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the regional group that has mediated the negotiations, announced that the two sides had finally reached an agreement, which was signed Thursday evening

after a delay of several

Negotiators spent weeks at the luxury Sheraton hotel in Addis Ababa, discussing a deal that could bring an end to the fighting.

The conflict began on Dec. 15 with a clash at a military barrack in Juba.



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Palestinians dismiss Israeli al-Qaida plot claim

IBRAHIM BARZAK M. DARAGHMEH **Associated Press** RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian security officials on Thursday cast doubt on Israel's claim that it broke up an al-Qaida plot to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, alleging Israel concocted the story to bolster its position in peace talks.

Israel's Shin Bet security ate here," Damiri said. "It military two and half weeks agency says it arrested needs broad logistical sup- ago in a night raid. three Palestinian men two from Israeli-controlled east Jerusalem and one He said Israel had arrested from the West Bank — over the plot.

It said those arrested admitted to planning a suicide bombing at the embassy and other attacks. It

said they received their instructions over the Internet through a handler in the Gaza Strip who had direct ties to al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri.

Adnan Damiri, a spokesman for the Palestinian security services in the West Bank, said there is "no indication" that al-Qaida has a presence in the territory.

"Al-Qaida cannot operport and that cannot be here in this small area."

some naive "boys" and claimed they were al-Qaida to halt American pressure to show more flexibility in peace talks. Israel has demanded it retain a pres-

ence in parts of the Palestinian-claimed West Bank after any future peace deal due to security concerns. One of the suspects was identified as Ala Ghannam, 21, from Agaba, a village near the northern West Bank town of Jenin. His cousin, Arafat Ghannam, told The Associated Press that the 21 year old was arrested by the Israeli

He said Palestinian intelligence forces had arrested him just a week before and had let him go. The Palestinians arrested him because of "Islamic views" he expressed on Facebook, the cousin said without elaborating.



Eyeing investment, Iran shows off its gas sites

NASSER KARIMI Associated Press ASALOUYEH, Iran (AP) — Weathered Iranian workers toil in a labyrinth of

Dozens of oil tankers idle in the distance.

This is Asalouyeh, the main town serving Iran's South

coast of the Persian Gulf. natural gas from this field to China and Europe, but international sanctions over the Islamic Republic's contested nuclear

tially completed natural gas plants and other facilities at South Pars, also known as the North Dome. President Hassan Rouhani has said that Iran plans to sharply increase production from the gas

field by 2017.

Iran sits on the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia. The South Pars gas field has an estimated 14 trillion cubic meters (494 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas — about 8 percent of worldwide reserves and more than 18 billion barrels of liquefied natu-

Iran currently produces about 300 million square meters (3.2 billion square feet) of gas a day from the field. It hopes to boost that output by another more than 100 million square meters (1 billion square feet) a day this year and ramp up production of condensate.

Iran's total gas output is 750 million square meters (8 billion square feet) of gas per day. It consumes much of it domestically, but the Islamic Republic long has sought to enter European markets through a pipeline to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. It already exports gas to Turkey and hopes to sell to India and Pakistan as well.

The country has spent nearly \$46 billion on building refineries in recent years. It needs another \$40 billion to finish the job in a field many view as crucial to the country's economy.

"The future of Iran's energy sector passes through the field," said Saeed Leilaz, a Tehran-based political and economic analyst. "Iran needs to expand it in terms of the international market and for domestic consumption."

Until 2005, foreign oil companies including Total SA were working in the field. They gradually left over the anti-Western policies of former President Mahmoud Ahmadineiad and tightening sanctions. By early 2010, all had left, save for a consulting South Korean firm.

Iranian media repeatedly has repeatedly criticized the delay in developing the field. Qatar began production from its share of the field in 1989, while Iran only began working on its side in 1998.

In Asalouyeh, some 940 kilometers (580 miles) south of the capital, Tehran, residents hopes the easing sanctions could help spur development of the gas field.

"I know soon foreigners will come since many Iranian engineers are shuttling here. Then more money will be within reach," said Abbas Fatehi, who earlier left the town to search for work but returned to drive a tanker supplying water to construction sites.

On Thursday, Rouhani told a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that Iran is ready to offer "sustainable and extensive cooperation" to secure the world's energy supplies. However, he said sanctions only hurt that effort. "Imposing and extending sanctions would not have any result except costs for all sides," he said.



This picture shows a gas refinery at the South Pars gas field on the northern coast of Persian Gulf in Asalouyeh, Iran. With a six-month deal in place easing sanctions as Iran negotiates a final deal with world powers, the government hopes to draw international investment to the natural gas field to spur its production. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

snaking pipelines, storage tanks and workshops as aas flares burn briahtly in the sky off the northern

Pars, an immense natural gas field it shares with Qatar. New parts and equipment could help Iran sell program have delayed development.

Now, with a six-month deal in place easing sanctions as Iran negotiates a final deal with world powers, the government is hoping to draw international investment to the field to spur its production.

"If sanctions ease, our ordered parts, blocked abroad, could be released and the project will go online sooner," said Hamid Reza Masoudi, the chief engineer supervising work on a refinery here. "Foreign investment is definitely needed."

Masoudi spoke during a tour for international journalists put on by Iran's oil ministry to show off par-

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Ecuadorean airline halts flights to Venezuela

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Venezuela's airlines as- At the same time, the boli-Tame says it is suspending its once-daily flights to and from Venezuela until that country's government pays it \$43 million owed for ticket sales. Tame General Manager Fernando Guerrero says the flights are halted effective Thursday.

Figuera told The Associated Press that the government owes carriers a total of \$3.3 billion for January alone. The airlines are victims of Venezuela's rigid currency controls that prevent carriers from repatriating earnings.

The Ecuadorean airline sociation chief Humberto var has plunged to a tenth of its official value on the flourishing black market, making tickets sold in Venezuela some of the cheapest in the world.

Venezuela owes bigger airlines such as Colombia's Avianca tens of millions of dollars.

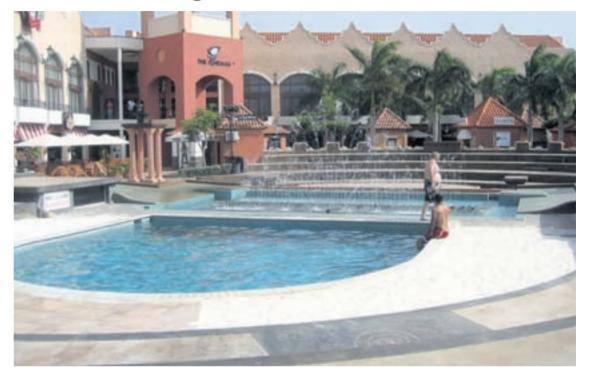


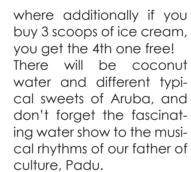
Betico Day festivities in full swing at Paseo Herencia!

PALM BEACH - Saturday, loric dance group Youth in January 25th, at 7pm, Paseo Herencia will be celebrating Betico Day with Different stores and resthe well known Grupo di folkloric rhythms.

Action, which will present a variety of dances.

taurants will have special Betico which will entertain discounts and incentives everyone with their diverse on this day, including 15% discount at Totto tu, a free Also there will be the folk- topping at Haagen Dazs,



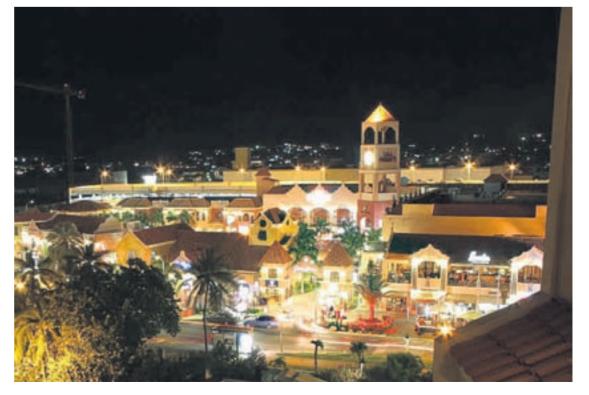


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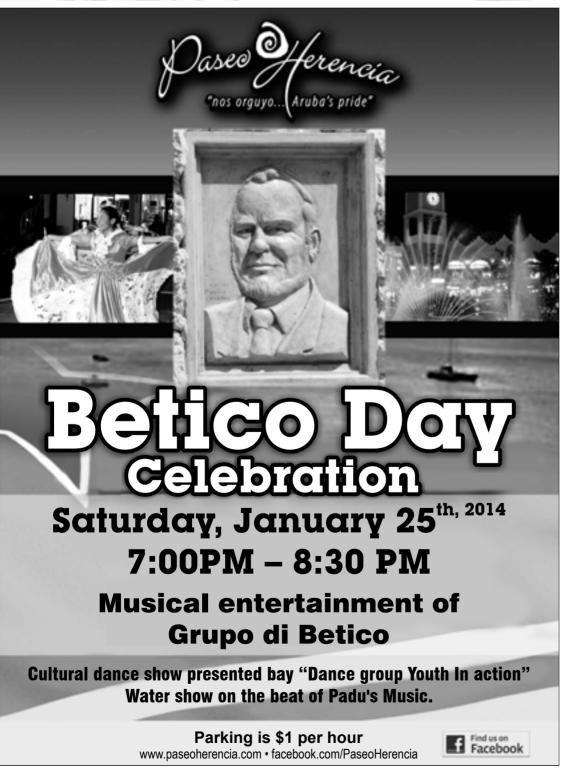
Loyal visitors honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites

ORANJESTAD - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Renaissance Ocean Suites as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Harriet Woodruff and Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Gail Lewis. The honorees are loyal members of the Renaissance Ocean Suites and they love Aruba very much be-

cause of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Renaissance Ocean Suites is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Linda Garcia, staff members and friends from the honorees.





And Then

By: Roland W. Peterson.

We are deep in the Hurricane season

I am sitting on a piece of drift wood listening to the waves licking the white sand

The first sunrays are rising over the Eastern horizon Two little Sandpipers hurry by, paying attention to no one

A little crab is going forward backwards

There is a little batch of pebbles that is pushed forward and then hauled back into the ocean by the waves again and again.

To the North of the island there is a big hurricane heading North

The wind is now shifting, it is coming in from the South /East

Suddenly the sea water started to recede

All the coral reefs and the big stones to protruded out of the ocean floor

The wind sprang up and the sunrays disappeared from the horizon. Dark clouds covered the island

That night it was full moon and at sunrise the moon made no haste to retreat

I had never seen something like this before

I got scared and hasted to my car and drove home, to warn my family and neighbors to go to higher grounds and to inform the police what I had seen

It could be a trungming semilar.

It could be a tsunami or something similar Anyhow I was not taking any chance

It started to rain and the wind was blowing at a speed of about 80 miles an hour

Many big trees toppled and cacti was all over the place

Walking outside without protection was a big dangerous risk

The "coke-barn" in the refinery was blown open and the black coke and dust was blowing over the whole area.

The coke and dust was so thick you could hardly see your hand in front you face

The Fire department and Police could not be dispatched because they could not see to drive

There was cacti all over the place and the black coke and dust made visibility even worse

It was about midday when the "black coke and dust" engulfed Santa Cruz and Oranjestad

As the day wore on our faithful North/East trade winds came to the rescue

It kept on raining and the Trade winds blew the coke and dust out to sea

An unpredictable weather pattern, high winds and a big pile of black coke, can be a serious safety hazard Hurricane season is just around the corner and I hope that the person(s) responsible will take the needed precaution.

If there is nothing to worry about, then let the person(s) responsible say so.

Successful Ninth Annual Donkey Walk



The ninth annual Donkey Walk of the Donkey Sanctuary was a great success. The number of participants had doubled and hundreds of people walked the 6.6 km route last Saturday afternoon. One participant caught the eye: Randy Gomez ran the entire length of the `caminata' behind the stroller with his 6-month old son Atiba in it. Atiba clearly loved the action, the atmosphere and the beauty of the surroundings - he was all smiles. The other participants enjoyed them-

selves as well: the weather was perfect and the setting extra gorgeous.

Donkey Thistle was supposed to walk along, but unfortunately he had to cancel at the last moment due to a number of roaming dogs. He enjoyed himself anyway and he doubled as the welcoming committee at the finish, where watermelon and oranges from Super Food supermarket revived everyone.

As the current Donkey to wait another year for the



Sanctuary at St. Lucia is becoming too cramped sun made the countryside for the many inhabitants, a new sanctuary has been found and construction has begun. However, a lot of money is needed, so the proceeds of the caminata were very welcome: the donkeys are AWG. 2.000,-closer to their new home. Back to Ayo, the starting place and finish of the walk, where the following overheard comment made the organizers smile: ``What a pity that we have



next Donkey Walk!'' Next year will be the Donkey Walk's tenth anniversary, in 2015!

so everybody, get in shape and come and walk along





SPURIS ENDAY

Wawrinka into Aussie final

JOHN PYE AP Sports Writer MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— The usually diplomatic Roger Federer didn't bother concealing his preference for semifinal winners at the Australian Open.

He wanted an all-Swiss final, the first ever in a Grand Slam. Eighth-ranked Stanislas Wawrinka held up his end of the bargain with a 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) win over Tomas Berdych to reach his first major final.

Now the pressure is on the 17-time major winner to complete the match up. The major obstacle in his path: a semifinal against Rafael Nadal.

Now it's Iron Stan's turn to sit back and watch two of the greatest players ever do battle Friday for the right to meet him in Sunday's final.

"For sure I'm going to really, really enjoy," Wawrinka said. "I'm going to watch the match tomorrow in front of my TV, maybe with some popcorn.

"I always try to watch when they play because you can always learn. You can always see the best tennis ever on the tour."

The 33rd installment of the Nadal-Federer rivalry — the 11th in Grand Slams — should be enthralling viewing. Wawrinka's joked that he'd prefer a walkover most of all, but likes the idea of a Swiss decider.

"My record against Rafa is not really good, and neither against Roger, but for sure to play a Swiss final will be amazing," he said. Federer "is the best player ever. For me it's my first final. To play against Roger would be amazing."

Federer is into his 11th consecutive semifinal at Melbourne Park — he has



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

won five and gone on to win four finals.

"This one feels different because of the tougher the times I've had in Slams," He said Federer, who lost in the second round at Wimbledon and the fourth round at the U.S. Open last year when he was struggling with muscle injuries and getting to terms with a new, bigger racket. To get this far he had to beat 2008 finalist Jo-

Wilfried Tsonga in the fourth round and Wimbledon champion Andy Murray in the quarterfinals.

He said he was inspired by Wawrinka's upset quarterfinal win over three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic. Federer watched it on TV and caught himself fist-pumping when Wawrinka won big points.

Left-hander Nadal has a commanding 22-10 lead

in head-to-heads against Federer. His 8-2 lead in Grand Slams includes the 2009 Australian final and the semifinals here in 2012. "We've had some epics," Federer said. "I hope we can slug it out."

Wawrinka has never beaten Nadal in a dozen attempts and has only one victory over Federer in 14 attempts.

Continued on Page 20



In this July 9, 2010, fie photo, Lance Armstrong, of the United States, prepares to take the start of the sixth stage of the Tour de France.

Associated Press

UCI may cut Armstrong ban in return for details

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)

— The new president of cycling's world body says Lance Armstrong's lifetime ban for doping cold be reduced if he provides information which assists other doping investigations.

Brian Cookson became UCI president in September and established the Cycling Independent Reform Commission which will examine the history of doping in professional cycling and probe allegations the UCI conspired to cover up doping activity.

Cookson said the commission's terms of reference might include an agreement with the World Anti-Doping Agency and the United States Anti-Doping Agency to reduce sanctions on cyclists who cooperate with the inquiry. He said "there will be the

possibility of a reduction" in Armstrong's case if he provides information which assists any investigation but stressed the UCI does not have the power to make such a deal.



NBA Capsules

Deng a non-factor as Bulls beat Cavaliers

The Associated Press

Augustin scored 27 points in a start for Kirk Hinrich and Taj Gibson matched a career high with 26 filling in for Carlos Boozer as the Chicago Bulls improved to 7-2 since trading Luol Deng with a 98-87 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Augustin and Mike Dunleavy hit 3-pointers down the stretch to pace the Bulls, who at 21-20 moved over .500 for the first time since Nov. 22.

Deng went just 2 of 11 from the field in his first game against Chicago. The Bulls dealt the two-time All-Star forward to Cleveland on Jan. 6 for future draft picks. Kyrie Irving scored 26 to lead Cleveland, which has dropped the first two games of a five-game homestand.

THUNDER 111, SPURS 105

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Kev-**CLEVELAND (AP)** — D.J. in Durant had 36 points to offset Tony Parker's season-high 37, and the Thunder survived a testy victory over the Spurs for their third win this season over the defending Western Conference champions.

> Reggie Jackson had 27 points and Serge Ibaka added 14 points for Oklahoma City (33-10), which reclaimed the West's best

> Tim Duncan and Boris Diaw scored 14 points each and Duncan added 13 rebounds, but San Antonio (32-10) struggled to overcome the loss of their top defensive stopper, Kawhi

> Leonard left the game late in the first half after sustaining a non-displaced fracture in his right hand. His status was not yet known. SUNS 124, PACERS 100

PHOENIX (AP) — Gerald

Green scored 23 points against his former team, leading six Phoenix players in double figures, and the Suns snapped Indiana's five-game winning streak by handing the Pacers their most one-sided loss of the season.

Indiana, owner of the NBA's best record (33-8) and the league leader in scoring defense and field goal percentage defense, gave up the most points it has all season.

Goran Dragic scored 21, Markieff Morris 20, P.J. Tucker 13, Miles Plumlee 11 and Channing Frye 10 for



Chicago Bulls' Jimmy Butler (21) tries to poke the ball away from Cleveland Cavaliers' Luol Deng, of Sudan, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, in

Associated Press

the Suns.

Paul George scored 26, George Hill 16 and David West 13 for Indiana. HAWKS 112, MAGIC 109 ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Paul Millsap had 24 points, Jeff Teague added 23 and the

Hawks hung on to beat the Magic.

Atlanta opened a 19-point lead in the third quarter, but lost it the fourth before coming back to hit six free throws in the final 40 seconds for the win.

USA Basketball picks national team roster pool

BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — LeBron James and 10 others from the 2012 U.S. Olympic basketball team are remaining in the national team pool, joined by a group of newcomers hoping for their first chance at gold.

USA Basketball selected 28 players Thursday to choose from for the World Cup of Basketball this year in Spain and the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Carmelo Anthony was also chosen, giving him and James a chance to play in a fourth Olympics and win a third

Also selected from the 2012 gold medalists were Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, Kevin Love, James Harden, Russell Westbrook, Deron Williams, Anthony Davis, Tyson Chandler and Andre Iguodala.

Only Kobe Bryant, who has said he is finished with international competition, wasn't selected.

The other players picked were: Derrick Rose, Dwight Howard, Blake Griffin, Stephen Curry, LaMarcus Aldridge, Paul George, DeMarcus Cousins, Kyrie Irving, Kawhi Leonard, David Lee, Bradley Beal, Kyle Korver, Damian Lillard, Andre Drummond, Kenneth Faried, Klay Thompson and Gordon Hayward.

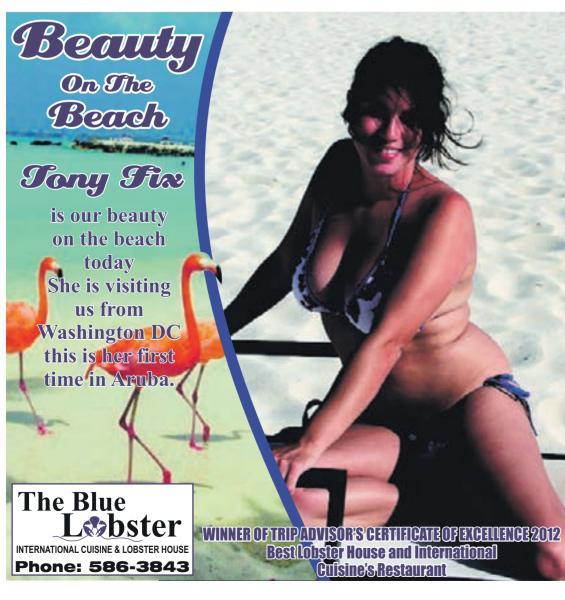


Wawrinka

Continued from Page 18

Then again, he'd lost until his upset earlier this confidence boost. It was 14 straight to Djokovic week, and that was a tight against Berdych, with







Li Na of China makes a forehand return to Eugenie Bouchard of Canada during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. **Associated Press**

just one service break in the match and only one point between them in the end. To reach the final "it's because I beat Berdych tonight;

I won against Novak also. I had some great matches," he said. "So that mean's I have the level to be there." The 28-year-old Wawrinka reached the semifinals at the U.S. Open last year his best previous run at a major — before losing to Djokovic in five sets. He has gone a step further this time— reaching a Grand Slam final at his 36th attempt.

Nadal was bothered by blisters on his left hand during his win over Grigor Dimitrov, the 22-yearold Bulgarian who took the first set off him in their quarterfinal and also had set points in the third. He had the hand heavily taped during the match, and admitted it affected his serve.

He practiced on Thursday without all the tape, avoiding a lot of attention

while the women's semifinals were on.

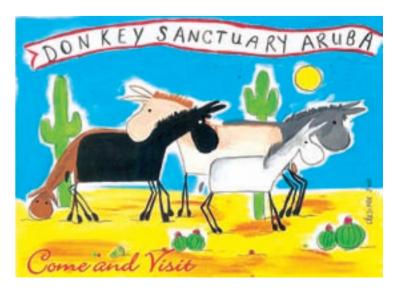
The women's final will feature 2011 French Open champion Li Na in her third Australian Open decider in four years against Dominika Cibulkova,

who had never previously gone beyond the semifinals of a major.

No. 4-seeded Li Na won the first five games in her 6-2, 6-4 semifinal win over 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard, No. 20-seeded Cibulkova later trounced 2012 Wimbledon finalist Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-2.

In her loss to Victoria Azarenka in last year's final, Li twisted her ankle and fell over twice, and knocked her head hard on the court. "I think is the third time, so pretty close to the trophy," Li said. "Yeah,

at least I try to not fall down this time, because last year in the final I think I played well but I only can say I was unlucky. At least I'll try to enjoy and stay healthy."





NHL Capsules

Tlusty lifts Hurricanes to 3-2 win over Flyers

The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jiri
Tlusty scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period
to lift the Carolina Hurricanes to a 3-2 victory over
the Philadelphia Flyers on
Wednesday night.

Nathan Gerbe had a high-

out and Jonas Gustavsson FLAMES 3, COYOTES 2 stopped Andrew Shaw's Shot, lifting Detroit past Chicago. FLAMES 3, COYOTES 2 CALGARY, Alberta (A Sean Monahan score team-leading 14th go

The defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks faced Detroit for the first time since beating them in overtime in Game 7 of their CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Sean Monahan scored his team-leading 14th goal of the season and Matt Stajan got the game-winner as Calgary snapped its team-

record seven-game home

losing streak.

Crosby picked up his 26th of the season and Taylor Pyatt added a rare score for the Penguins. Marc-Andre Fleury made 22 saves as Pittsburgh bounced back from a dismal loss to Florida on Monday by trouncing hapless Montreal.

Jokinen picked up his third

goal and an assist, Sidney multi-goal game of the Crosby picked up his 26th season

Rene Bourque had his seventh goal for the Canadiens but Montreal spent most of the night chasing the Penguins. Carey Price stopped just 16 of 21 shots before being pulled late in the second period. Montreal has lost four of six.

MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | PG-13 | FRI 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:35 | SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20 | 11:35 | SUN & HOL. 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00 | 9:20



Philadelphia Flyers' Wayne Simmonds, right, comes up on Carolina Hurricanes' Radek Dvorak, during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, in Philadelphia. The Hurricanes won 3-2.

Associated Press

light-worthy goal and Alexander Semin also scored for Carolina, which improved to 3-0 against Philadelphia this season.

Claude Giroux and Scott Hartnell scored for the Flyers, who lost for just the second time at home in their last 14 games.

Tlusty beat Flyers goalie Steve Mason from close range high to the glove side with 6:10 remaining. RED WINGS 5, BLACK-HAWKS 4, SO

DETROIT (AP) — Darren shots he faced and finished Helm scored on Detroit's with 27 saves for the Blacksixth attempt in the shoothalks.

second-round series last year to complete a comeback from a 3-1 deficit.

Chicago captain Jonathan

Toews scored on his team's first attempt in the shootout and Patrick Sharp scored on the second before Patrick Kane was stopped with a chance to win the game. Gustavsson, playing for the injured Jimmy Howard, made 31 saves in his first game in nearly a month. Corey Crawford gave up four goals on the first 17 shots he faced and finished

Lance Bouma also scored for Calgary, which scored more than two goals for the second time in 14 games since Christmas and had been outscored 22-4 during its home skid.

Karri Ramo finished with 30 saves for the Flames.

Antoine Vermette and Shane Doan scored for Phoenix, which has lost eight of its last 11.

PENGUINS 5, CANADIENS 1 PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jussi Jokinen scored twice and Pittsburgh cruised past Montreal.

Evgeni Malkin added a







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No team logos on plaques for Maddux, La Russa

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

- Greg Maddux and Tony La Russa will not have logos on their Hall of Fame plaques.

The decision was announced Thursday by the Hall, which said Joe Torre's plaque will have the logo of the New York Yankees.

Plaques for Tom Glavine and Bobby Cox will have Atlanta Braves logos, and Frank Thomas' will have the logo of the Chicago White Sox.

The six will be inducted during ceremonies on July 27. The managers were elected last month by the Hall's expansion-era committee and the players were chosen this month by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Of the 300 previous Hall members, 86 have caps with logos and 42 don't have caps.



Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka speaks during a press conference at the Rakuten Eagles' stadium in Sendai, northeastern Japan, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014.

Associated Press

Maddux began his big league career with the Chicago Cubs from 1986-92, winning the first of his four Cy Young Awards in his final season at Wrigley Field. He was with the Braves from 1993-03, winning Cy

Youngs in his first three seasons in Atlanta, then returned to the Cubs from 2004-06. He also played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres from 2006-08.

"I feel good about it, I spent

half my career in Chicago and half of my career in Atlanta," Maddux said during a news conference in Arlington, Texas. "I love both places. Obviously, I feel like I had more success as a Brave. We did get a World Series there, but I kind of came up a Cub. For me, I couldn't pick. I really couldn't. ... So I'm going to go in neutral, I guess."

Hall President Jeff Idelson said a logo makes sense for those "whose most compelling contributions clearly took place with one team" and not having a team logo is "equally acceptable" for those whose careers were built significantly among multiple teams.

"Regardless of the selection, a Hall of Famer belong to every team for which he played or managed, as well as every fan who followed his career," Idelson said.

La Russa managed the Chicago White Sox (1979-86), Oakland (1986-95) and St. Louis (1996-11), winning World Series titles in 1989, 2006 and 2011.

"The Chicago White Sox gave me my start in the game as a big league manager for my first eight seasons in my 33-year managerial career," La Russa said. "In Oakland, we recorded four first-place finishes in 10 years, winning three pennants and a World Series. And in St. Louis, our clubs won three pennants and two titles in 16 years. It's the totality of the success of each of those three teams that led me to Cooperstown, so I am choosing to not feature a logo so that fans of all clubs can celebrate this honor with me."

Torre managed the Yankees from 1996-07, winning Series titles in 1996 and from 1998-00. He also managed the New York Mets (1997-81), Atlanta (1982-84), St. Louis (1990-95) and the Dodgers (2008-10).

"When I became the manager of the New York Yankees, it was an opportunity to realize my lifelong dream of winning the World Series," Torre said.

"We were fortunate enough to succeed in our first season in 1996, and in the years that followed, we wrote some great new chapters in Yankee history."

Decisions were relatively simple for the others.

Glavine pitched for the Braves from 1987-02 and in 2008, spending 2003-07 with the Mets.

Choosing the Braves was easy for Glavine, who said he knew it had to be a tough decision for Maddux because of his time with the Cubs. Still, Glavine is surprised about Maddux choosing no logo. "It still was a lot of fun for me to be his teammate," Glavine said before the annual dinner of the Boston chapter of the BBWAA.

Tanaka says Yankees wanted him most

JIM ARMSTRONG AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Masahiro Tanaka chose to play for the New York Yankees because they appreciated him the most among the many major league teams chasing the prized signature of the star Japanese pitcher.

"They gave me the highest evaluation and are a world-famous team." Tanaka said at a news Thursday after agreeing to a \$155 million, seven-year deal with the Yankees.

Tanaka said he was "relieved" the deal was done and looked forward to standing on the mound at Yankee Stadium.

Asked what his goal will be, Tanaka's response was direct: "To become world champions."

In addition to the deal with Tanaka, the Yankees must pay a \$20 million fee to his Japanese team, the Ra-kuten Golden Eagles over the next 18 months.

Iast year as the Eagles won the Japan Series title. The Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs and White Sox, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros all

His agreement calls for \$22 million in each of the first six seasons and \$23 million in 2020, and it allows him

to terminate the deal after the 2017 season and become a free agent.

Asked to deliver a message to Yankees fans in English, Tanaka said he plans to let his performance on the field do the talking.

"I don't speak English so I'll just have to win the trust and confidence of the fans with my performance on the field," the 25-year-old right-hander said.

His agreement was frontpage news in New York, where the Daily News devoted the top half of its front page to a photograph of Tanaka's pop star wife Mai Satoda in a bikini with the headline: "Yanks score a Ta-knockout."

Big league teams had until Friday to reach an agreement with Tanaka, who was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year as the Eagles won the Japan Series title. The Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs and White Sox, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros all said they were among the failed bidders.

Tanaka said he consulted with 2013 Rakuten team-



Texas Rangers special assistant Greg Maddux talks about his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame during a news conference Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, in in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

mate Takashi Saito and Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish about life in the major leagues before deciding on the Yankees.

"Everything will be new and challenging," Tanaka said. "But I have to rely on the ability that got me this far."

Tanaka was 99-35 with a 2.30 ERA in seven seasons with the Eagles, striking out 1,238 in 1315 innings. Yankees official has tracked him since 2007, scouting 15 of his games.

The Tanaka deal caps an offseason in which the Yan-

kees added catcher Brian McCann and outfielders Jacoby Ellsbury and Carlos Beltran. The four big deals totaled \$438 million.

Tanaka receives the highest contract for an international free agent and the fifth largest deal for a pitcher, trailing only those of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw (\$215 million), Detroit's Justin Verlander (\$180 million), Seattle's Felix Hernandez (\$175 million) and the Yankees' C.C. Sabathia (\$161 million under his original agreement with New York).



App Watch: Will you be my Between? App for lovers

YOUKYUNG LEE AP Technology Writer SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— If ever in doubt about your guy's commitment to a relationship, ask him if he would commit to an app.

A growing number of young couples in Asia are sharing special moments in the privacy of Between, a tight networking app that links only two people.

In an age of social media overload where tweets, Instagram and Facebook postings can invite unwanted attention from parents and employers, Between feels like a digital safe haven that blocks outside noise and keeps memories just for two.

Created by Seoul-based startup Value Creators & Company, Between hit 5 million downloads in two the users are in South Korea with their average age in the mid-20s. Between has attracted more than half a million users in Japan and is expanding in Thailand and Singapore. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese and American couples have also joined.

Jaeuk said social media fatigue is the main driver behind Between. As more people join Facebook, Twitter, and chat-based services such as Line and Kakao Talk, Between sees a bigger chance to grow its user numbers.

—HOW IT WORKS

Apple or Android device Park said, because the and provide the mobile number of the person you want to use the app with. Most use the app, which South Korean couples ofis free, with someone they are romantically involved with, though that's not required. Once the request is accepted, the two can use instant messaging, keep journals, exchange voice messages, post pictiles. Reminders for anniver- offer special discounts for

saries, birthdays or any special days such as the day the couple first met can be set in the app's calendar. The content created is private to the two users and the app can be password protected.

—DIGITAL COUPLE RING

CEO Park said the company envisioned a closed social network akin to a "digital couple ring." While any two people can use Between regardless of their relationship status, Park said many users see the app as a sign of commitment and loyalty, similar to rings that South Korean couples wear even before promising marriage. Agreeing to use the app or asking someone to join the app shows affection. A shy Korean may prefer saying "Do you want to do years. About two thirds of Between with me?" to ask someone out, he said.

While some mobile apps have given rise to exchanging naked pictures or hooking up with a stranger nearby, Between's design encourages an exclusive and lasting relationship. The one-account-per-email rule supports the idea of Value Creators CEO Park monogamy, although Park laughed saying the company wouldn't deter a person managing multiple accounts. Ham Yoon-seok, a 29-year-old finance professional in Seoul, said he writes poems and letters of apology on Between after a quarrel with his girlfriend. Between will never add a You install Between on your location-tracking feature, app maker believes that trust is key in a relationship.

—DATING CULTURE

ten expect each other to follow romantic customs, a source of big business here. In addition to Valentine's Day when women give chocolate to men, there is White Day on March 14 when men give sweets to tures and leave comments. women. It is easy to guess Between also offers a blog- what to give on Rose Day like space where the two and what to do on Kiss users can create photo Day. Some businesses exalbums and long notes. clusively serve couples by Pictures can be tagged to selling identical looking a "Memory Box," which ar- T-shirts and other apparel ranges them in a stream of that can be paired. Some



In this Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 photo, Value Creators & Company CEO Park Jaeuk shows his company's app Between on a screen at his office in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

couples. The list goes on. Korean couples celebrate not only a one-year anniversary, but also 100 days since meeting. Between keeps a count, serving as a reminder for people like

Ham, who marks such occasions by writing a poem, giving a gift or dining at a fancy restaurant. Ham and his girlfriend have been together for more than 1,000

—HANDS ON

Since I started using Between with my boyfriend, it has become the primary way we chat, save photos, plan vacations and keep to-do lists.



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McDonald's: Fewer customers stopping in for a bite

CANDICE CHOI AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fewer customers are stopping in at McDonald's, even as the world's biggest hamburger chain introduces a spate of new items including Mighty Wings.

The Oak Brook, Illinoisbased on Thursday reported disappointing sales for its fourth quarter, hurt by a decline in customer visits at established locations. The drop reflects a longer-term trend, with comparable guest counts down 1.9 percent globally and 1.6 percent in the U.S. for the last year, according to a regulatory filing.

In a conference call with analysts, CEO Don Thomp-

son cited ways the company can win back customers, including speedier service, better value offerings and raising "awareness around McDonald's as a kitchen and a restaurant" that prepares high-quality food.

"We've lost some of our customer relevance," Thompson conceded, referring to perceptions about the company in the U.S.

After outperforming its rivals for years, McDonald's Corp. is facing a mix of challenges, including a shift in eating habits toward foods people feel are fresher or healthier. The company has been working to better reflect those tastes by adding options such as chicken wraps and

eaa whites for its breakfast sandwiches.

But without providing specifics, the company said it has seen a "muted response" to its various promotions.

McDonald's is also facing heightened competition from rivals such as Burger King and Wendy's, and all three chains have been aggressively promoting their value menus in a fight for customers.

To address concerns the strategy could eat into profit margins, McDonald's recently updated its decade-old Dollar Menu. The "Dollar Menu & More" now includes items that cost around \$2 and \$5.

For the quarter, McDon-

ald's said global sales slipped 0.1 percent at established locations. In the U.S., the figure fell 1.4 per-

It rose 1 percent in Europe and fell 2.4 percent for the unit encompassing Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The figure is a key metric because it strips out the volatility of newly opened and closed locations.

For January, McDonald's expects the figure to be flat overall. It also expects the challenges it's facing to persist in the year ahead. McDonald's earned \$1.4

billion, or \$1.40 per share, for the three months ended Dec. 31. That's a penny more than Wall Street expected.

Neiman Marcus: 1.1M cards may be compromised

The Associated Press

Neiman Marcus says 1.1 million debit and credit cards used at its stores may have been compromised in a security breach last year.

The high-end retailer said Visa, MasterCard and Discover have found 2,400 Neiman Marcus and Last Call customer cards that were used fraudulently. Last Call is Neiman Marcus' clearance chain. Neiman Marcus says it is notifying all customers who shopped in its stores in 2013 and offering them a free year of credit monitoring and identity-theft protection.

Malicious software stalled in Neiman Marcus' system attempted to take customer card information from July 16 to Oct. 30, the company said. The malicious software has been disabled.

Neiman Marcus Group Ltd. reiterated in a post on its website Wednesday night that social security numbers and birth dates were not stolen and customers who shopped online were not affected.

Customers that use its private Neiman Marcus credit cards were also not affected. The Dallas-based company said the investigation is ongoing.

company learned that malicious software was installed to its system on Jan. 1, after a forensics company discovered it. It informed federal law enforcement agencies and began working with the U.S. Secret Service and payment processors.

Target Corp. also suffered a security breach, during the holiday shopping sea-

Hackers stole about 40 million debit and credit card numbers. Personal information, including names, email addresses, phone numbers and home addresses of as many as 70 million customers was also stolen.

Neiman Marcus said it has no knowledge of a connection between the two security breaches.

US stocks tank on worries over China

BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks fell broadly Thursday after a report from China added to growing signs that the world's secondlargest economy is slowing. The selling spared few companies, even those reporting solid earnings.

"It's pretty ugly," said Randy Frederick, a managing director of active trading and derivatives at Charles Schwab. "When you've got a market that's near record highs ... people are looking for any excuse to take profits."

In the Standard and Poor's 500 index, nine of 10 companies dropped.

Stocks fell from the start of trading after an HSBC survey of Chinese manufacturing fell to the lowest point since July and suagested that the country's factory sector was shrinking. Earlier this week, China reported its slowest annual economic growth since 1999.

The Dow was down as much as 232 points before trimming its loss late in the day. It closed down 175.99 points, or 1.1 percent, at 16,197.35. The S&P 500 lost 16.40 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,828.46.

Fearful investors poured money into U.S. government debt securities, push-

ing the yield on the 10-year now lost 16 percent of its each down at least 3 per-Treasury note down to 2.78 percent from 2.86 percent late Wednesday. That was the lowest since Nov. 29. Yields fall on bonds when their prices rise.

The price of gold, another

value in two days, the fastest drop since the country's economic collapse in 2002. The Turkish lira fell 1.3 percent and reached a record low against the dollar. Several U.S. companies fell

cent as investors sold the broad market.

So far this reporting season, about a fifth of the companies in the S&P 500 have reported fourth-quarter earnings, with about 65



Specialist Peter Giacchi, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. U.S. stocks are fell broadly Thursday after a survey from China suggested that manufacturing in the world's second-largest economy was contracting. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 175.99.

safe-play asset, rose \$23.70, or 1.9 percent, to \$1,262.30 an ounce.

Worries about China also hammered emerging market currencies. The Argentine peso fell hard, and has

after reporting their latest quarterly results, including KeyCorp, Johnson Controls and Jacobs Engineering. All three either met or exceeded analyst expectations for earnings, but were

percent of them beating analyst estimates — a solid performance, said Christine Short, associate director at S&P Capital IQ. She said that is about the historical average.



Barra to keep GM plans in place, but accelerate

DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Co.'s new CEO, Mary Barra, says she will largely keep in place the plans of her predecessor, from a restructuring in Europe to a focus on improving profit margins. But she hopes to accelerate that progress.

"We're no longer just looking for viability, but we're looking for growth and leadership in the operations we have around the

group of reporters Thursday. "Now that some of those things have gotten the attention and are righted, let's take it and go."

Thursday's 50-minute session was Barra's first interview since she became CEO on Jan. 15. Barra, 52, joked that the quiet conference room at GM's Detroit headquarters was a better place to talk than last week's Detroit auto show, where she was mobbed by hundreds of reporters.

world," Barra told a small Former CEO Dan Akerson announced last month that he was stepping down to care for his ailing wife. Under Akerson, GM made billions in profits and pushed to turn around struggling parts of its business, like Europe.

> Barra, a 33-year GM veteran who was global product development chief before Akerson named her CEO, said she and other members of GM's leadership team helped Akerson develop his strategy, in-

cluding a restructuring in Europe that will cost the automaker \$1.1 billion this year. GM still expects to achieve 10-percent pretax profit margins and break even in Europe by the middle of this decade, she said. It also wants to increase annual sales in China to 5 million by next year, up from 3.1 million last year. Among her priorities is making GM's brand messages clear and consistent worldwide. Cadillac has the potential to be a global luxury

brand, for example, and Chevrolet needs to make the case that it provides a lot of value to buyers. The new Chevrolet Corvette a relative bargain with a starting price of \$52,000 should help, she said.

Barra said President Dan Ammann will lead a new focus on sharing best practices between GM's regions and quickly implementing them elsewhere. That's something that didn't always happen in the past, she said. \square

Microsoft-bound Nokia business sees sales slide

5.4 billion-euro (\$7.2 billion)

sale of its ailing handset unit

to Microsoft. Shareholders

overwhelmingly approved

MATTI HUUHTANEN Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — The Nokia handsets business that Microsoft is due to take over saw sales continue to slide in the fourth quarter as its Lumia smartphones failed to draw business away from larger competitors like Apple and Samsung.

Shares in Nokia Corp. slumped Thursday after the company said it suffered a net loss of 25 million euros (\$34 million) in the October to December period, with smartphone sales plunging 29 percent.

Nokia stock closed down more than 10 percent at 5.11 euros in Helsinki.

The devices and services unit, which will be transferred to Microsoft Corp., saw sales fall to 2.6 billion euros from 3.7 billion euros a year earlier. The unit recorded an operating loss of 198 million euros compared with a profit of 97 million a year earlier.

Nokia sold 30 million Lumia handsets in the full-year

2013, about twice as many as in 2012. It also unveiled several Lumia models, including its first large screen smartphones and its first tablet, the Lumia 2520.

But it failed to pose a challenge to the leaders in the lucrative smartphone sector, Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics.

Neil Mawston from Strategy Analytics said the results were disappointing for the former industry bellwether, which has seen a steady decline since it commanded a 40 percent global market share of mobile phones in 2008.

"It was a bit of soft performance for Nokia in its final show," Mawston said. "The operating loss was the main surprise of the result." In a strategic shift, Nokia teamed up with Microsoft Corp. in 2011 hoping to turn the downward trend but it has been further hit by competition from the lower end, by cheaper producers of mobile phones in Asia and China.

Last year, it agreed to a proval.

> Nokia chairman and acting CEO Risto Siilasmaa described the fourth quarter as a watershed for the

"While the first quarter of the year is seasonally weak for our continuing operations, we continue to expect the closing of the Mi-



Nokia's Asha mobile phones on display, in a mobile phone shop, in Helsinki, Finland. Nokia Corp. has reported a fourth-quarter net loss of 25 million euros (\$34 million) as the struggling company saw sales smartphone sales plunge 29 percent. (AP Photo/Antti Aimo-Koivisto)

the deal in November and it is expected to be closed during the current quarter, subject to regulatory apFinnish company, which will focus on the smaller divisions it will have left after the Microsoft deal.

crosoft transaction to significantly improve Nokia's earnings profile," Siilasmaa said.

United Airlines posts 4Q profit of \$140 million

JOSHUA FREED AP Airlines Writer

The parent of United Airlines said Thursday that it earned \$140 million in the fourth quarter, as more passengers flew and paid more for their tickets. The airline's fuel bill also shrank. Its shares fell, though, after disappointing prediction for revenue growth in the current quarter. Net income at United Continental Holdings Inc. was

share. A year earlier it lost \$620 million, or \$1.87 per share. Not counting special charges, United would have earned 78 cents per share — well above the 66 cents expected by analysts surveyed by FactSet. Revenue rose more than 7 percent to \$9.33 billion, also higher than analysts had expected. Passengers paid 3 percent more per mile to fly compared to

\$140 million, or 37 cents per a year earlier. They paid more in add-on fees, too. United said so-called ancillary revenue, which covers items such as baggage fees, rose 15 percent in the quarter to nearly \$21 per passenger. Fuel expenses fell 4 percent to \$2.97 billion for the quarter. United said in November that it intends to cut \$2 billion in annual costs. The company is still working to integrate Continental after their

2010 merger. Although all the paint on the planes and the signs at the ticket counters read "United," the company still has to schedule flight crews and planes separately for the two airlines, reducing the savings from the merger. "Our goals for 2014 are to provide even more reliable operations, great customer service and materially better financial performance," chairman and

CEO Jeff Smisek said in a written statement. United said it expects a key measure of revenue to be flat to up 2 percent in the current quarter. Its main competitor, Delta Air Lines, on Tuesday predicted growth of up to 4 percent. Analysts expect Delta to report a profit in the first quarter of 27 cents per shares, excluding items, but are forecasting a loss for United of 29 cents per share.

bruba 100/14

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



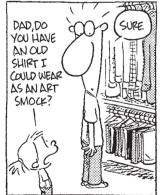




Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues









Zits









Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	4	1	6	9	7	8	3	5
	9	3	6	5	8	4	7	1	2
	5	7	8	1	2	3	6	9	4
nd s	8	1	9	3	6	5	2	4	7
rday	7	2	3	8	4	9	1	5	6
/este	6	5	4	2	7	1	9	8	3
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ACROSS

- 1 Summoned with a beeper
- 6 Likelihood 10 Tiny amount, in a recipe
- 14 In the know 15 Nurse's helper 16 Resound
- 17 Part of USNA 18 Adolescent 19 Red octagonal
- street sign 20 Vision 22 Arm covering
- 24 12/24 & 12/31 25 Sporting facial
- 26 Blush 29 "Your Time _ Come Yet, Baby"; Elvis Presley song
- 30 Primate 31 Happen again 33 Speed __; one who drives fast
- 39 More miffed 41 "Been there, that"

2 Out of town

5 Hand over

promises

8 Ike's initials

9 Smell, touch,

taste, etc.

10 Abandoned 11 Played a role

13 Remained

23 Terra firma

27 Heroic poem

28 Stag or doe

34 Like a point no

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25 Exposed

26 Knocks

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optimistic

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12 Push forcefully

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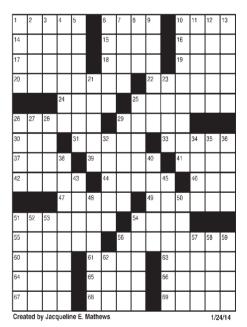
6 Sworn

3 __ in; relented 4 Cleared a slate

37 Dock

- 42 Threaded metal fastener 44 Passion
- 46 Sept.'s follower 47 Impudent
- 49 Davis & Midler 51 Nervous 54 Attorney General Janet
- 55 Day __; stock speculator 56 Noticeably different
- 61 Secondhand 63 Maui greeting 64 Get ; take
- revenae 65 Bundle of hay 66 Ease
- 67 Take a nap 68 __-crazy; tired of confinement
- 69 Flower stalks DOWN

1 Window glass



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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40 Comfy wraparounds

43 __ war; fight 45 Homes with tenants in them 48 Bushes

50 Bathroom "throne" 51 Say

52 Show to be true 53 Subdues

54 Passenger 56 Sandwich shop 57 Short letter 58 Pal

59 Bugle song 62 Took a seat



Phone data spying

Continued from Page 3

In addition to concluding that the daily collection of phone records was illegal, the board also determined that the practice was ineffective. "We have not identified a single instance involving a threat to the United States in which the program made a concrete difference in the outcome of a counterterrorism investigation," it said, and added, "We are aware of no instance in which the program directly contributed to the discovery of a previously unknown terrorist plot or the disruption of a terrorist attack." It said the NSA should instead seek individual records relevant to terror cases directly from phone service providers under existing laws.

"Given the limited results, we concluded the program should be ended," said board member James Dempsey of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a civil liberties group.

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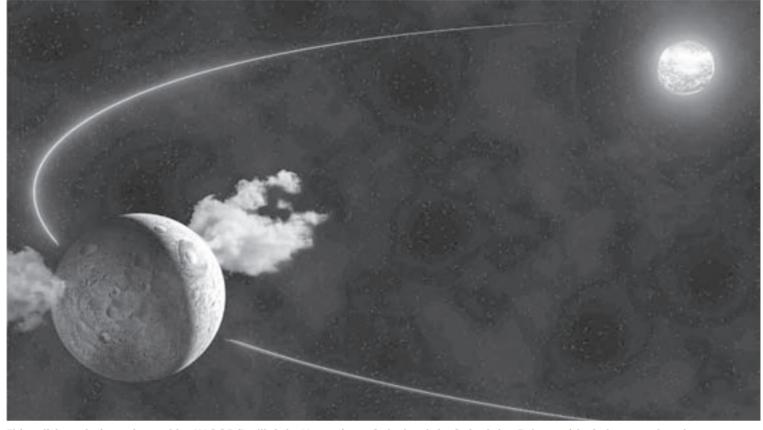
Telescope spies water plumes on dwarf planet Ceres

ALICIA CHANG AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The largest object in the asteroid belt just got more attractive: Scientists have confirmed signs of water on the dwarf planet Ceres, one of the few bodies in the solar system to hold that distinction. Peering through the Herschel Space Observatory, a team led by the European Space Agency detected water plumes spewing from two regions on Ceres. The observations, published in Thursday's issue of Nature, come as NASA's Dawn spacecraft is set to arrive at the Texas-sized dwarf planet next year.

It's long been suspected that Ceres is water-rich, but previous detections have been inconclusive. This is the first definitive evidence of water on Ceres and confirms that it has an icy surface, said lead author Michael Kuppers of the European Space Agency.

"It makes Ceres a more exciting target" for exploration, he said. The latest finding puts Ceres in a special class of solar system objects with active plumes of water, a key ingredient for life. The company includes



This artist rendering released by IMCCE (Institut de Mecanique Celeste et de Calcul des Ephemerides) shows water plumes spewing from the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres.

Jupiter's moon Europa — where an underground ocean is believed to exist — and the Saturn moon Enceladus, where jets have been seen venting from the surface.

The source of the water plumes is still unclear. Scientists think there may be a layer of ice just below the surface that gets heated by the sun or the plumes could be spewed by ice volcanoes. Dawn won't be in the best position to witness any water activity since it'll arrive at a time when Ceres is far from the sun. But the spacecraft carries instruments that can detect water and it will map the dwarf planet in detail, said Dawn deputy project scientist Carol Raymond, who had no role in the research.

Launched in 2007 and powered by ion propulsion, Dawn is the first spacecraft to orbit two space rocks.

Ceres is different from Dawn's first target, Vesta, the second largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The zone is littered with rocks left Associated Press over from the formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago, allowing scientists to study how Earth and the other planets evolved. Unlike Ceres, Vesta is dry and rugged. Its scars reveal it got whacked twice by smaller asteroids. Some of the debris was cast into space and rained on Earth as meteorites.



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey shows a landslide trench and ridge east of Reelfoot Lake in Obion County, Tenn., made by the New Madrid earthquakes in the early 1800s.

Associated Press



Study: US fault zone alive and active

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The New Madrid fault zone in the United States' midsection is active and could spawn future large earthquakes, scientists reported Thursday.

It's "not dead yet," said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Susan Hough, who was part of the study published online by the journal Science.

Researchers have long debated just how much of a hazard New Madrid poses. The zone stretches 150 miles (250 kilometers), crossing parts of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

In 1811 and 1812, it un-

leashed a trio of powerful jolts — measuring magnitudes 7.5 to 7.7 — that rattled the central Mississippi River valley. Chimneys fell and boats capsized. Farmland sank and turned into swamps. The death toll is unknown, but experts don't believe there were mass casualties because the region was sparsely populated then.

Unlike California's San Andreas and other faults that occur along boundaries of shifting tectonic plates, New Madrid is less understood since it's in the middle of the continent, far from plate boundaries.

Previous studies have suggested that it may be shutting down, based on GPS readings that showed little strain accumulation at the surface. Other research came to the same conclusion by blaming ongoing quake activity on aftershocks from the 1800s, which would essentially relieve strain on the fault.

The latest study suggests otherwise. Hough and USGS geophysicist Morgan Page in Pasadena, California, analyzed past quakes in the New Madrid region and used computer modeling to determine that the continuing tremors are not related to the big quakes two centuries ago.

"Our new results tell us that something is going on there, and therefore a repeat of the 1811-1812 sequence is possible," Hough said.



Bradley Cooper coming to Broadway this fall

MARK KENNEDY AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bradley alive" by People magazine, is coming to Broadway in an ugly role.

that the "Silver Linings Playbook" and "American Hustle" actor will star in "The Elephant Man" this fall. It's about a disfigured man in Victorian London whose own inner goodness forces people to reevaluate their notions of beauty.

It will be directed Scott then on Broadway, where Clarkson and Alessandro Nivola. The stars and director were all in the 2012 Williamstown Theater Festival production of the play. The Broadway revival will be at a Shubert theater to be announced later.

Cooper was last on Broadway in 2006 opposite Julia Roberts and Paul Rudd School in New York.

in Richard Greenberg's "Three Days of Rain." The last time "The Elephant Cooper, not too long ago Man" was on Broadway crowned "sexiest man was in 2002, with Billy Crudup in the starring role.

The play by Bernard Pomerance shows some Producers said Thursday two dozen snapshots in the life of the grotesque John Merrick, tracing his journey from an abused circus freak to a curiosity of London's high society.

The original "The Elephant Man" was an astounding success during the 1978-79 theater season, first off and Ellis and co-star Patricia such diverse performers as David Bowie and Mark Hamill eventually followed the mesmerizing Philip Anglim in the title role.

> Cooper, a veteran of "The Hangover" franchise, is no stranger to the role: He portrayed Merrick as part of his senior thesis at the Actors Studio Drama



This Dec. 8, 2013 file photo shows actor Bradley Cooper at the premiere of "American Hustle" in New York. Producers said Thursday, Jan 23, 2014, that the "Silver Linings Playbook" and "American Hustle" star will star in "The Elephant Man" on Broadway this fall.

Associated Press



Neil Patrick Harris earns Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Neil Patrick Harris has been named man of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

The Emmy Award-winning actor, who made his name on television as child doctor "Doogie Howser M.D." and is more recently known for his role as the womanizing Barney in "How I Met Your Mother" will be given his pudding pot following a parade through Harvard Square and a roast scheduled for Feb. 7.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century. Its awards are presented annually to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribution to entertainment.

and Pitbull



In an April 22, 2013, file photo, actor Neil Patrick Harris poses for photos to promote the upcoming film "Smurfs 2", at the Summer of Sony 5 Edition photo call in Cancun, Mexico.

Associated Press

was named woman of the

Harris has also appeared on stage and in film, including in the "Harold & Kumar"

Last week, Helen Mirren and "Smurfs" movies.□ World Cup song to feature J-Lo



Brazilian singer Claudia Leitte and rapper Pitbull pose at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. **Associated Press**

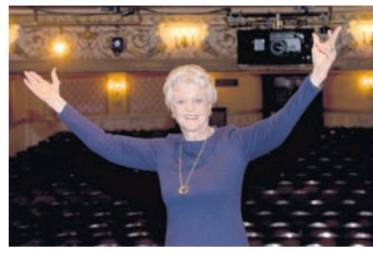
FIFA says Jennifer Lopez will er Claudia Leitte to perform the official song of the World Cup. Football's governing body didn't elaborate on Thursday when "We Are One (Ole Ola)" will be released.

Written and co-produced by Pitbull, the song "is set to

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — bring the passion of Brazil to the world" and "ignite the team up with rapper Pitbull excitement felt by football and popular Brazilian sing- fans" for the tournament kicking off in June.

> Leitte says she is looking forward to "dancing samba with Pitbull and Jennifer Lopez in Brazil." Lopez was not in Rio for the announcement. Shakira wrote "Waka Waka" for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Lansbury relieved 'Murder, She Wrote' remake axed



British actress and singer Dame Angela Lansbury is photographed on stage at the Gielgud Theatre in central London, as she returns to the West End this spring for the first time in nearly 40 years, with the play, Blithe Spirit, by Noel Coward, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014. Lansbury reunites with director Michael Blakemore to reprise her role as Madame Arcati.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Angela Lansbury says she's relieved that a planned remake of her classic whodunit series "Murder, She Wrote" has been canceled.

Lansbury had been critical of NBC's idea of a reboot starring Octavia Spencer. The entertainment website Deadline.com reported this week that NBC was

not going ahead with the show.

Lansbury said Thursday she thought the remake was a bad idea from the start.

"I couldn't believe that they would even consider doing such a thing," Lansbury told The Associated

"I think it was an awful mistake and it was a terrible

disservice" to Spencer, she said. "I have too much admiration for her to saddle her with the awful responsibility of having to bring that title into a different venue." Lansbury spent 12 years until 1996 plavina small-town sleuth Jessica Fletcher in the series.

The 88-year-old actress is about to perform in London's West End for the first time in almost 40 years, as the medium Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit."

Lansbury won a Tony Award for the role on Broadway.

Last month the actress, who was born in London and moved to the United States in her teens, was made a dame — the female equivalent of a knight — by Queen Elizabeth II.

She said she was pleased to be performing at London's Gielgud Theatre, where her mother, actress Moyna Macgill, made her stage debut in 1918.

"She was a lovely actress," Lansbury said. "I get all my talent from her."

Oxfam pans Scarlett Johansson for Israeli deal

JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Oxfam International is criticizing Scarlett Johansson over her new ad campaign for an Israeli company that operates in the West Bank. Israeli drink maker SodaStream International Ltd. recently signed the U.S. actress as its first "global brand ambassador." She is to appear in a television ad during the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

SodaStream has come under fire from pro-Palestinian activists for maintaining a large factory in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, a territory captured by Israel in 1967 and claimed by the Palestinians.



In this Nov. 10, 2013 file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson arrives for the screening of the film 'Her' at the 8th edition of the Rome International Film Festival in Rome.

Associated Press

Johansson has served as a global ambassador for Oxfam since 2005, raising funds and promoting awareness about global poverty. The humanitarian group said that while it respects the independence of its ambassadors, it opposes "all trade" from Israeli settlements, claiming they are illegal and deny Palestinian rights. "We have made our concerns known to Ms. Johansson and we are now engaged in a dialogue on these important issues," it said.

The Undeserving Rich



PAUL KRUGMAN © 2014 New York Times

The reality of rising American inequality is stark. Since the late 1970s real wages for the bottom half of the workforce have stagnated or fallen, while the incomes of the top 1 percent have nearly quadrupled (and the incomes of the top 0.1 percent have risen even more). While we can and should have a serious debate about what to do about this situation, the simple fact -American capitalism as currently constituted is undermining the foundations of middle-class society - shouldn't be up for argument.

But it is, of course. Partly this reflects Upton Sinclair's famous dictum: It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it. But it also, I think, reflects distaste for the implications of the numbers, which seem almost like an open invitation to class warfare - or, if you prefer, a demonstration that class warfare is already underway, with the plutocrats on offense.

The result has been a determined campaign of statistical obfuscation. At its cruder end this campaign comes close to outright falsification; at its more sophisticated end it involves using fancy footwork to propagate what I think of as the myth of the deserving rich.

For an example of de facto falsification, one need look no further than a recent column by Bret Stephens of The Wall Street Journal, which first accused President Barack Obama (wrongly) of making a factual error, then proceeded to assert that rising inequality was no big deal because everyone has been making big gains. Why, incomes for the bottom fifth of the U.S. population have risen 186 percent since 1979!

If this sounds wrong to you, it should: That's a nominal number, not corrected for inflation. You can find the inflation-corrected number in the same Census Bureau table; it shows incomes for the bottom fifth actually falling. Oh, and for the record, at the time of writing this elementary error had not been corrected on The Journal's website.

OK, that's what crude obfuscation looks like. What about the fancier version?

I've noted before that conservatives seem fixated on the notion that poverty is basically the result of character problems among the poor. This may once have had a grain of truth to it, but for the past three decades and more the main obstacle facing the poor has been the lack of jobs paying decent wages. But the myth of the undeserving poor persists, and so does a counterpart myth, that of the deserving rich.

The story goes like this: America's affluent are affluent because they made the right lifestyle choices. They got themselves good educations, they got and stayed married, and so on. Basically, affluence is a reward for adhering to the Victorian virtues. What's wrong with this story? Even on its own terms, it postulates opportunities that don't exist. For example, how are children of the poor, or even the working class, supposed to get a good education in an era of declining support for and sharply rising tuition at public universities? Even social indicators like family stability are, to an important extent, economic phenomena: Nothing takes a toll on family values like lack of employment opportuni-

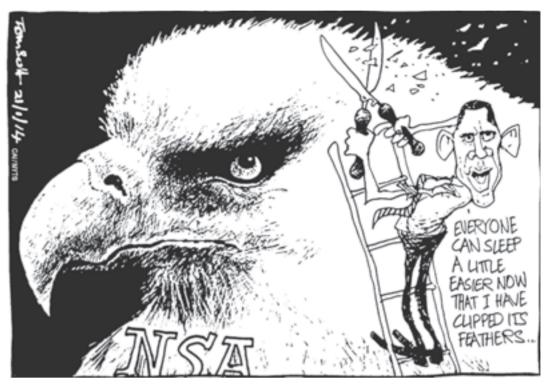
But the main thing about this myth is that it misidentifies the winners from growing inequality. White-collar professionals, even if married to each other, are only doing OK. The big winners are a much smaller group. The Occupy movement popularized the concept of the "1 percent," which is a good shorthand for the rising elite, but if anything includes too many people: most of the gains of the top 1 percent have in fact gone to an even tinier elite, the top 0.1 percent.

And who are these lucky few? Mainly they're executives of some kind, especially, though not only, in finance. You can argue about whether these people deserve to be paid so well, but one thing is clear: They didn't get where they are simply by being prudent, clean and sober.

So how can the myth of the deserving rich be sustained? Mainly through a strategy of distortion by dilution. You almost never see apologists for inequality willing to talk about the 1 percent, let alone the really big winners. Instead, they talk about the top 20 percent, or at best the top 5 percent. These may sound like innocent choices, but they're not, because they involve lumping in married lawyers with the wolves of Wall Street. The DiCaprio movie of that name, by the way, is wildly popular with finance types, who cheer on the title character \cdot another clue to the realities of our new Gilded Age.

Again, I know that these realities make some people, not all of them hired guns for the plutocracy, uncomfortable, and they'd prefer to paint a different picture. But even if the facts have a well-known populist bias, they're still the facts - and they must be

THE NEWYORK TIMES A31 FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2014



Peeling Away The Plastic



MAUREEN DOWD © 2014 New York Times

SALT LAKE CITY - It's hard to imagine anything more painful than going through the presidential campaign all over again with Mitt Romney.

Unless it's going through two presidential campaigns with Mitt Romney.

But, yes, that's the narrative of a new buzzed-about documentary that had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

Those who have seen "Mitt" - which debuts on Netflix on Friday - are agog that filmmaker Greg Whiteley has accomplished what Romney himself, the gleaming, ever-replicating Romney clan and the candidate's high-priced political strategists could not: Willard Mitt Romney seems all too human.

He wells up. He prays with his family, kneeling on the floor of hotel rooms, and plays with them in the snow. He refers to himself sardonically as "the flipping Mormon" and frets that he could become a loser like Michael Dukakis, who "can't get a job mowing lawns." He daringly steam irons the French cuffs on a formal shirt while it's on his body, just before he goes down in tails to the Al Smith dinner at the Waldorf. He stavs calm when he learns Obama is winning re-election: "Wow, that's too bad," he tells an aide on the phone. "All those states, huh?"

Drawn no doubt by word of the miraculous cinematic oil can for the Tin Man, Mitt came to see "Mitt" for the first time Friday night. Maybe Romney sees the film less as a eulogy than a prologue. There are rumors in Republican circles that he's thinking about another run.

A Republican fundraising operative even told BuzzFeed that donors are so worried about 2016 now, many tell him, "I think we need Mitt back."

It seems preposterous that we'd go through a third Romney run, but with Chris Christie imploding and Barbara Bush denouncing dynasties and shooing Jeb out of the race, maybe the 66-year-old sees an opening. Maybe he no longer feels, as he tells his family in the film on election night in 2012, stoically writing his concession speech, "My time on the stage is over, guys."

The movie spans from Christ-mastime 2006, with the family gathered to make a decision on whether Mitt should run in 2008, to after the 2012 election, when he says goodbye to his Secret Service detail and returns to his empty suburban Boston home, sadly staring out the window.

I dread to think what was going through Romney's mind as he watched a movie that made him more appealing than any of his campaign ads or his own convention, even though he paid Stuart Stevens and his other 2012 advisers ridiculously more than the winning politicos who delivered a second term for Barack Obama were paid.

But Whiteley, a charming 44-year-old Mormon documentarian who brought along his adorable blond kids - 12-year-old son, Henry, and 10-year-old daughter, Scout - to his press interviews, was trying to reveal Mitt, while Romney's handlers were trying to obscure Mitt.

"Stuart Stevens' feeling was that Mitt Romney was a fish out of water," Alex Castellanos, a 2008 Romney adviser who crossed swords with Stevens in that campaign, told me. "He was a Northerner in a Southern party. He was a centrist in a conservative party. He was an elite in a rural party. Stuart didn't think he could sell

Mitt Romney in the primaries.

"Stuart thought that every day spent talking about Mitt Romney was a losing day and every day spent talking about Barack Obama was a winning day. It was criminal."

Romney was able to relax around his fellow Mormon, Whiteley, enough to seem less awkward and strange, but he's still in the bubble of his faith and family, seemingly cloistered from the world of average Americans. The film glosses over one of the turning points in the campaign, the 47 percent flasco. "I was insecure about that," Whiteley admitted to me, noting that Romney didn't give him a more lucid explanation than he gave the press.

It also glides over the bad symbolism of building a four-car garage elevator at his La Jolla house, which Stevens told Romney would be fine.

And while Romney offers a portrait of a man reluctantly drawn into politics because he thinks it is his duty to save the nation from people like Obama, who "have not been in a setting where you're trying to make it," he never really explains how he would save it or gives any clue to the Vision Thing, except murmuring about high taxes on small businesses.

In the end, despite all the campaign artifice and the brutal process, we do get to know the candidates in some primal way. The fact that Romney allowed his strategists to keep a fence around him and his faith, which is so central to his life, the fact that he basically had nothing to say about where he wanted to lead the country, the fact that the private equity leecher spoke so dismissively about the 47 percent of people he regarded as moochers, the fact that this supposedly top-notch businessman did not seem to realize his campaign was using 20th-century technology - all of this spoke to a certain tentativeness, obtuseness and callousness.

But there's always 2016. 🔲



Apple's Mac still influences, 30 years after debut

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Look
around. Many of the gadgets you see drew inspiration from the original Mac
computer.

Computers at the time typically required people to type in commands. Once the Mac came out 30 years ago Friday, people could instead navigate with a graphical user interface. Available options were organized into menus. People clicked icons to run programs and dragged and dropped files to move them.

The Mac introduced realworld metaphors such as using a trash can to delete files. It brought us fonts and other tools once limited to professional printers. Most importantly, it made computing and publishing easy enough for everyday people to learn and use.

Apple sparked a revolution in computing with the Mac. In turn, that sparked a revolution in publishing as people began creating fancy newsletters, brochures and other publications from their desktops.

These concepts are so fundamental today that it's hard to imagine a time when they existed only in research labs — primarily Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and his team got much of its inspiration from PARC, which they visited while designing the Mac.

The Mac has had "incredible influence on pretty much everybody's lives all over the world since computers are now so ubiquitous." says Brad Myers, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Human-Computer Interaction Institute. "Pretty much all consumer electronics are adopting all of the same kinds of interactions."

Apple didn't invent these tools, nor was the Mac the first to use them. Xerox Corp. sold its own mouse-based Star computer, and Apple's Lisa beat the Mac by months. It's impossible to say what would have happened if those



In this March 28, 1984, file photo, thousands of Apple Macintosh computers sit on double decked manufacturing lines.

machines hadn't flopped with consumers or whether others would have come along if the Mac hadn't. But the Mac prevailed and thus influenced generations of gadgets that fol-

eyes on the screen without worrying about which button to press.

While Lisa had those improvements first, it cost about \$10,000. The Mac was a "low" \$2,495 when it

This January 1984, file photo, shows Apple CEO Steven P. Jobs, left and President John Sculley presenting the new Macintosh Desktop Computer in January 1984 at a shareholder meeting in Cupertino, Calif.

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lowed.

The Mac owes much of its success to the way Apple engineers adapted those pioneering concepts. For instance, Xerox Corp. used a three-button mouse in its Alto prototype computer. Apple settled on one, allowing people to keep their

came out on Jan. 24, 1984. Apple insisted on uniformity, so copying and pasting text and deleting files would work the same way from one application to another. That reduced the time it would take to learn a new program.

And Apple put a premi-

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um on design. Early Macs showed a happy face when they started up. Icons and windows had rounded corners. Such details made computers appear friendlier and easier to use — at least subconsciously — to the user, Myers says.

One of the first applications enabled by the Mac's interface was desktop publishing. Early computers generated text the way a typewriter would — character by character, one line at a time. Users had a limited number of characters, with no variation in appearance. The Mac was one of the first to approach displays like a TV: Text gets incorporated into a graphic that the computer projects on the screen pixel by pixel.

With those tools, would-be publishers could change fonts, adjust typeface sizes and add attributes such as italics. They could also mix images with text. The earliest Macs popularized "what you see is what you get," or WYSIWYG; formatting on the screen largely reflected how the page would look in print. Instead of going to a professional printer, anyone could simply design and print newsletters on a Mac.

Of course, the Mac's suc-

cess was never guaranteed.

Initially, many people "thought it was a waste of time and a gimmick," says Dag Spicer, senior curator of the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley.

He says long-time computer users already knew how to perform computing tasks "very efficiently with just two or three keystrokes. It might have been more efficient for them than to use a mouse."

The Mac didn't run software for the company's Apple II computer, so there was little people could do with it until Aldus — now part of Adobe — released PageMaker publishing software in 1985. The original Mac had little memory and a small screen, and it lacked a hard drive. Although the Mac's processor was fast for its time, much of that power went to the graphical interface instead of tasks common for research and commerce.

With the Mac came "the dawn of the notion of we can waste computing power to make it easier for people," says Jim Morris, who worked on the Xerox Alto before joining Carnegie Mellon by the time the Mac came out. "The Macintosh was not a business machine."

Tim Bajarin, a Creative Strategies analyst who has followed Apple for more than three decades, says he was baffled, yet intrigued when he saw the Mac's unveiling at an Apple shareholders meeting in 1984.

"This really was a complete departure from the computing that we knew," he says. "None of us had any clue what its potential would be."

In fact, despite its radical interface, sales were lukewarm. For years, it was mostly a niche product for publishers, educators and graphics artists. Corporate users stuck with IBM Corp. and its various clones, especially as Microsoft's Windows operating system grew to look like Mac's software.